

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

Welcome Ricky Howsare, Contemporary Worship Leader

By Susan Shinn Turner

St. John's has welcomed Ricky Howsare as its new contemporary worship leader. He started work on July 6 and his first Sunday in worship was July 11.

Ricky and his wife, Kimberly, are in the process of moving to Salisbury from Pennsylvania.

Kimberly, a childcare provider, is taking care of selling their house, as well as taking care of their animals: two dogs, three cats, two love birds, and a peacock. Ricky has already brought his small fish tank with him.

At 14, Ricky discovered his gift for singing.

"I established my relationship with Christ at a young age," he says. "I was born and raised in a Christian household, and I grew up in a non-denominational church."

By the time he got to college, he had been singing in his community. He received a bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis in voice from the University of Louisville. Upon graduation, he said, he had no plans for ministry.

"I always had a way with an audience," he says. "I could have bet money that's where my life was headed."

For two years, he worked at the American Music Theater an 1,800-seat venue in Lancaster, Pa. It's the secular version, he says, of the larger Sight and Sound Theater in that town. He was a full-time singer-performer. At Christmas, the singers and dancers did 14 shows a week.

"That will wear you out," he notes.



He was struggling, he says. Finally, he shut the door to his room one day and began to pray. And he had a clear voice from God calling him into ministry.

"I never had any inkling that was where my life was headed," he says, "but I had a peace and assurance about everything. I knew God would provide."

A week later, he had a call from a pastor in his hometown who was looking for a full-time worship leader.

"It was a lot of risk for both parties," he said, "but I worked there full-time for 2 1/2 years."

He notes, "Ministry is something new and fresh for me, but it is my passion. I have never looked back. A transformation has taken place in me, the same as in anyone's testimony. How can I use music to bring someone else to an experience of worship? How can I give God space to minister?"

He adds, "I give the glory to God. God did this in me and through me. We need to ask the question, how can church bring you as a worshipper into a place where you can have an experience with God that meets your needs?"

Although he will primarily lead the 9:27 service, Ricky has an appreciation for all types of music and all facets of worship.

"The level of collaboration with the music staff is a really awesome thing to be a part of. Ultimately, we are part of the same church."

Away from work, Ricky and Kimberly enjoy being outdoors in nature. They're eager to hit the local trails.

Pastor's Letter

Sisters and Brothers,

As I reflect on the last three and a half years that I have spent with you, I am so incredibly grateful. St. John's and Salisbury will always hold a special place in my heart because of each and every one of you. I feel like I have said this to a number of people. Still, congregations/youth groups/any other group in the church are not great because of the leader (although good leadership helps). They are great because of the people and the hospitality and love. You are a great congregation because of your heart and passion for bringing God's kingdom here. Even with a dynamic staff, you help make this place a light for the community and a safe place to rest in the love of God.



Pastor Laura, Davin, Eliana and Everett

When I was in seminary, I could have never guessed God would lead me to Minnesota and North Dakota, but I am so glad God eventually led me to St. John's. I think back on all the memories that I will take with me: Women's Bible Study, time at the CDC, youth trips, weddings and funerals, chapel at the Kindergarten, Youth Sundays, baptisms and confirmation, weekend retreats, Holy Week and the beautiful exhaustion, Women's Christmas party, VBS, the youth championship basketball games, First Communion, lunch/coffee/ice cream meetings, youth groups, Hands and Feet camp, Lutheridge and the congregational retreat, Christmas Eve services, staff retreats and fun days, and the list could go on and on. I really cannot say how much you have meant to my family and me.

After my mom died, I got a book for Eliana and Everett called "The Invisible String" by Patrice Karst. Two little kids get scared one night during a thunderstorm. They run out to their mother, who tells them about the invisible string that we carry within our hearts that connects us to each other. When you share a special connection with someone, a string is created. This string can go anywhere, deep in the ocean or far away in outer space... even to heaven. We now talk about invisible strings a lot in our family. When we feel scared,

alone, or when we are missing someone too much, we are reminded of our invisible string. That is what the body of Christ is like in the world, a bunch of people connected together by an invisible string, the love of Jesus Christ. No matter how far away we are, there is always a part of St. John's and each of you that will be connected to me through an invisible string. Our God is a God of deep, meaningful relationships. Our God is a God of invisible strings tying us together as sisters and brothers now and forever.

My favorite verse of all time speaks to this invisible string. "I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us." Romans 8:38-39 (The Message)

I love you!

Pastor Laura

G2G 2 Update

*Trenches, organ blowers, and plaster blossoms.
Check out this month's Update from Mike Agee*

Where are with the renovations?

We're still on track to move with our schedule. It's been a great project so far, but not surprisingly we've run into a few snags. They've found ways to mitigate all the challenges we've had so far. We continue to do demolition and abatement, and we've started building walls for the small dining room and equipment rooms.

What's the big project this month?

This month, we'll have to dig a trench from the education building to the sanctuary building for a new electrical circuit. That means power across campus (except the Faith Center) will be shut down for approximately two weeks. The new circuit is necessary so that we can add additional electrical capacity, which is necessary as we address old infrastructure.

Why is the organ not working?

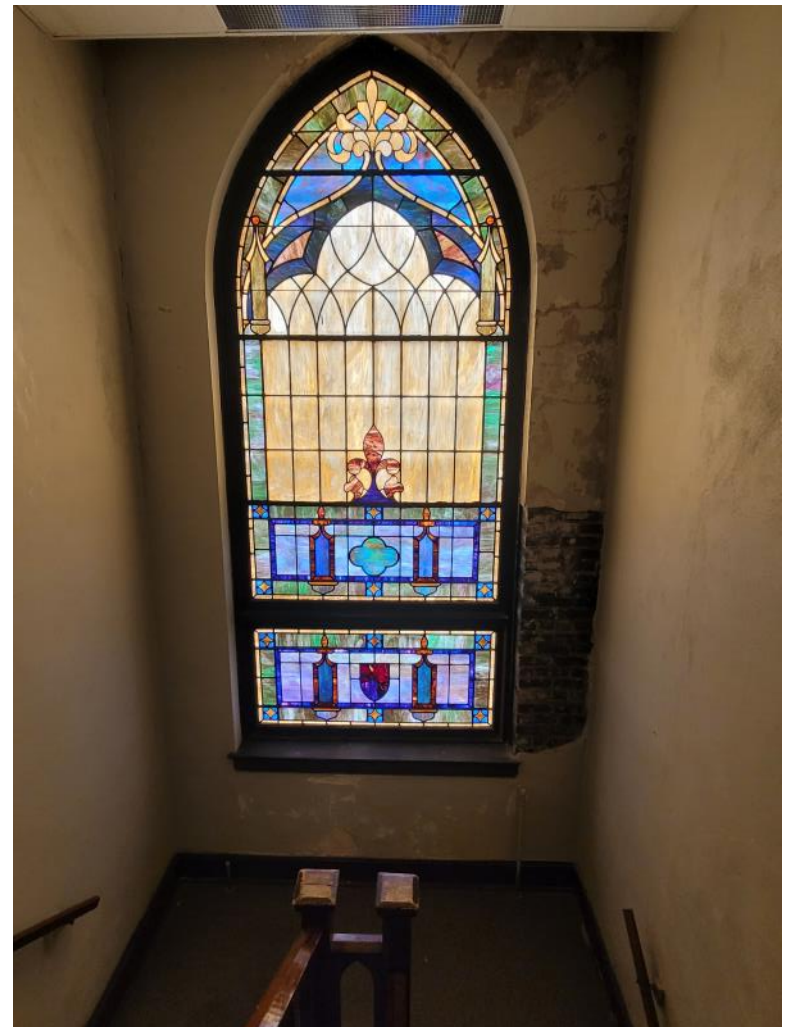
It's definitely working, but the project required us to relocate the organ blower, which is how the organ breathes. It should be up and running by early August.

What causes the plaster problems in the sanctuary building?

Plaster blossoms when moisture gets into the wall. Eventually the plaster will break and fall. It's not a surprise, especially with old buildings. We're taking care of it through this project, which includes areas in the sanctuary, the stairwells, and the top floor storage areas. It will look better than new when finished!

When do you expect to be finished?

We anticipate that the project will take 13 months from when we began on June 1. The contractors are doing a great job and we have every reason to think that we'll stay close to schedule.



*Thank you for your faithful support
and generosity!*

Vacation Bible School 2021!



VBS was a great success! The changes we made for this year definitely made it worth putting together. In fact, one parent said her kids came home and asked if they could go to 100 more days of VBS! Woo Hoo! All kids and adults had fun while FOCUSING on seeing Jesus, hearing from Jesus and caring like Jesus. I couldn't have done this without every volunteer who stepped up and dedicated their time and talents. Thank you for being you! - Stacey Shafer



Upcoming in Children's Ministry — Notes from Stacey

August 29— Nursery Kick-off!

Please come join us on Sunday, Aug. 29 for a Nursery Kick-Off between 9-11 am, if your child is birth-5 years old. Our children's ministry team will have orange juice and snacks for your family as we cannot wait to show you all the new items furnished during our nursery fundraiser this past May. Whether you come before worship or after, we look forward to fellowship time with you and your children.

August 29 – 3rd Grade Milestone!

Good News, God News

3rd graders will receive a new bible as we talk about God's words and promises. RSVP by Aug. 25 to stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org

August 30– Kingdom Kids Volunteer Meeting

Calling ALL past and future Children's Ministry volunteers! If the love for children is on your heart and you would like to volunteer during Sunday School, occasional Sunday afternoons, or nursery, I would love for you to join me at 5:45 pm for a fun, informational, volunteer kick off! Food will be provided so please RSVP by Aug. 25. If your child will attend please let me know so I can have care and activities for them, as well!



Nursery workers and volunteers needed!

Nursery workers and volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org

September 12 — Kingdom Kids Kick-Off

Sunday School is back! Kids will come to the Ark at 9:45 am. Families are invited to join us after worship for family crafts

Confirmation Sunday is August 15 at 11 am

Please note: August 15 is a Unity Sunday, with worship at 11 am only

15 students will be confirmed on Sunday, Aug. 15 at 11 am worship. The milestone follows two years of confirmation classes, retreats, and camps that prepared the students for this important moment in their lives: when they affirm the baptismal promises made by their parents on their behalf.

Please note that Confirmation Sunday at St. John's is always a UNITY SERVICE so that the entire congregation can celebrate this important milestone event. With that in mind, we will worship at 11 am only. There will be no 9:27 am worship on Aug. 15. If you normally attend the 9:27 am worship, we hope you'll join us in the sanctuary at 11 am to encourage our confirmation students.

Lilly Dangerfield is one of the students who will be confirmed. Lilly was baptized at St. John's sanctuary 14 years ago and has been an active part of the church's life ever since.

"It's been an amazing journey watching our sweet Lilly grow into the God fearing young lady that she has become," says her mom, Ashley. "Her time at St. John's has taught her how to be a great person and kind friend to everyone she encounters. I am so proud of her commitment to

confirmation and for keeping God central in her life!"

Other students include Mitchell Allen, Noah Brown, Alex Hedenskog, Riley Lowder, Evan Linebarger, Kaydence McDaniel, Luke Mesimer, Addisyn Myers, Drew Rabon, Makara Trick, Callie Wisecarver, Ashley Yang, Ella Wilson, and Meredith Martin.

"Confirmation is one of the most significant ministries of the church," says Pastor Rhodes. "We invest a lot of time and resources in helping our students form a statement of faith that is truly theirs. When they stand before the congregation on Confirmation Sunday, there's nothing casual or accidental going on. It's the culmination of a journey years-in-the-making, a moment when they stand before all of us and say for the first time, 'This is what I believe.'"

Join us on Aug. 15 as we celebrate this milestone event. If you'd like more information about confirmation ministry, please contact Pastor Rhodes.

Confirmation Schedule: Fall 2021

Confirmation this fall will be a combination of Zoom classes on Wednesday evenings (two 4-week units) and in-person youth group on Sunday evenings. The Zoom classes are divided into two 4-week units:

Unit 1 — "My Identity as a Christian"

Sept. 15, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 1 (ZOOM)
Sept. 22, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 1 (ZOOM)
Sept. 29, 6:30– 7:17 pm – Unit 1 (ZOOM)
Oct. 6, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 1 (ZOOM)

RETREAT! *October 15-16 at Lake Lure.*

Unit 2 — "The Life of Jesus"

Nov. 3, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 2 (ZOOM)
Nov. 10, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 2 (ZOOM)
Nov. 17, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 2 (ZOOM)
Dec. 8, 6:30-7:15 pm – Unit 2 (ZOOM)



Thank you Pastor Laura!



What a dynamic duo! Pastor Laura and Stacey formed such a great team, here leading an Easter Drive-Through event. Thank you!



Pastor Laura has a very special place in her heart for children, graciously welcoming them into the life of the church. Here she helps to baptize Charlotte Williams. Thank you!



Pastor Laura led chapel at the CDC and provided onsite management during a particularly difficult transition time at the Center. Thank you!



A highlight was leading prayer before a Panthers game in the fall of 2019. Way to represent! Thank you!

Reception to Honor Pastor Laura will be Held on August 22

Saying goodbye is never easy, but what a great opportunity to say THANKS for Pastor Laura's ministry these last 3 1/2 years. Join us for a reception in her honor on Sunday, Aug. 22, in Peeler Hall. The reception follows the 9:27 am worship AND again following 11 am worship. August 22 will be her final Sunday at St. John's.

Pastor Laura's final day in the office will be July 29, as she and

Davin begin their transition to Knoxville. She will be in worship on August 1 and then return for worship on Aug. 15 (Confirmation Sunday) and Aug. 22, her final Sunday.

A big congregational THANK YOU for being such a loving, vibrant, authentic, and faithful partner in ministry. You'll be missed, but we'll always be blessed by your presence. Thank you, Pastor Laura!



Our staff will miss her big smile, infectious laugh, and warm heart. Thank you!



Pastor Laura led our youth and confirmation programs, helping to show students how to connect faith and life. The relationships she's formed with the students will be long-lasting and transformative. Thank you!



Pastor Laura loved telling stories, and the kids loved hearing her tell stories. Thank you!

What's Coming Up this August

Waldensian Festival in Valdese, NC

August 13-14: Overnight 15 passenger van excursion

The Waldensians are a pre-reformation reformed sect of Christianity. They believed in the priesthood of all believers, translating the scripture into the "common" languages of the people of the day and encouraging education so that all people could read the Bible for themselves. A simple people, they were dedicated to taking care of the poor and justice for the oppressed.

Friday

- 8:30 am Depart from the Jackson Street drive-through
- 10:30 am Trail of Tears Guided Tour
- 12:00 Noon Lunch on your own at Twin Brother's Pizza
- 2:00 pm Heritage Museum Tour
- 3:30 pm Check into Days Inn & Suites/Morganton
- 5:00 pm Dinner at Boulevard BBQ, \$5-\$25 on your own.
- 7:00 pm Outdoor drama "From This Day Forward" by the Old Colony Players at the Fred B. Cranford Amphitheater
- 10:00 pm Arrive back at the hotel



Saturday

- 7-9:00 am Breakfast at the Hotel
- 9:45 am Depart hotel for Waldensian Festival in downtown Valdese: Main Street is lined with over 170 food/art/craft vendors, amusement rides, bocce tournament, church service, traditional Waldensian meal, open art competition, attraction tours, street dances, and live music throughout the day. We ask all attendees to stay with another person.
- 3:00 pm Depart for home

Total Cost except food: \$62/each, including hotel (based on \$59.85 + tax, dbl. occupancy), transportation, tour, and theater fees.

Lunch-n-Learn with guest speaker M.J. Simms-Maddox

August 24, 11:30-12:30 in the Pit



M.J. is the author of the popular *Priscilla* series of books. She is a retired political science professor from Livingstone College, now spending full-time as a fiction writer. She is a native of Clio, South Carolina but grew up in Western New York. She earned her Ph.D. from Ohio State University, worked as a legislative aide in the Ohio Senate, and

operated her own PR Firm. She found her passion for fiction writing late in life and the "Priscilla Trilogy" was her debut.

She is a very interesting person, so we sure hope you will join us for what's sure to be a very enjoyable conversation.

To read more about her books, go to her website, <https://www.mjsimsmaddoxinc.com/priscilla>.

Lunch is \$5 or bring your own.

Senior Academy is Back!

Fall Season: Tuesdays, September 14 to October 5, 10 am - 2 pm.

Cost is \$10.

10-11:30 am Bible Study

Pastor Rhodes Woolly will lead a Bible Study called, "Questions for Jesus." Each week, we will address the following topics:

1. What Do You Think about Marriage and Divorce? (Mark 10:2-16)
2. What Must I Do to Be Saved? (Mark 10:17-31)
3. How Boldly Can I Pray? (Mark 10:46-52)
4. How Much Should I Give? (Mark 12:38-44)

11:30 am-12:30 pm Lunch

Bring your own lunch or purchase for \$5.

12:30-2 pm Afternoon Class with Catawba College Leaders and Professors

Dr. David Nelson, President of Catawba College

Dr. Scott Morton, Assistant Professor of Communications and the author of "The History of Broadcast Radio in the United States"

Amanda Grieshaber, Coordinator of Therapeutic Recreation

Dr. Kenneth W. Clapp, Sr. Vice President and Chaplain



Register Now for the Williamsburg Christmas Bus Tour!

December 6-8

Deposits due by August 31, 2021. Join the 23 people who have already signed up!

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
- Motorcoach Transportation



All for the fantastic price of \$459.00 based on double occupancy, including motorcoach transportation! The single occupancy price is \$498. A \$50 deposit (per person) is due by Tuesday, August 31. The balance is due by Friday, October 15.

Join a Small Group this Fall

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 2 new studies that can begin mid-September. 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 joining or leading a small group Bible Study.



What to Do when you don't know what to do! (4-week study)

What do you do when life doesn't go as planned? When the story you have in your mind doesn't play out in real life like you were expecting? We've all experienced moments that caught us off guard, made life feel uncertain, or even caused a lot of hurt. During those moments, how many times do you have all the right answers at all the right times? It's not always easy to know what to do. It's easy to react, to lash out, to question God, to fall into depression, or to get bitter. But will those things bring the results you want? In this series, we're taking a deep dive into the life of Joseph, a boy who grew up into a privileged life as the favored son. The stage was set for a storybook life—until it wasn't. With a quick turn of events, Joseph's life was filled with unexpected moments, challenges, and pain. And it's in each of those moments that Joseph had a decision to make. The decisions that Joseph made along the way can serve as a guidebook for us. What will we do when we don't know what to do? Maybe the decisions are not as hard as we think.

Open to start September 16. (Location, Day and Times for this small group are flexible depending on the Group's availability to meet.)



The You Effect (3-week study)

Have you ever met someone who has a huge effect on the people around them? They're the kind of person whose mood can change an entire room. The kind of person whose words can motivate others to change. The kind of person whose actions make an impact. Whether they realize it or not, they have influence, and for better or for worse, that influence has an effect. Well, have you ever stopped to consider that you might be that person? That you might be the one whose influence has an effect on the people around you? So often when we think of influence, we don't think about ourselves. We don't always see ourselves as someone who can impact the people and situations around us. But the reality is, big or small, we all have influence. And as followers of Jesus, how we use that influence matters. So, what if we decided to use our influence to make a difference? To change things for the better? To leverage it for the sake of God's kingdom? In this series, we'll dive into recognizing the influence we have and learn to consider how we can use that influence to have a lasting effect in the lives of others.

Open to start September 15 (Location, Day and Times for this small group are flexible depending on the Group's availability to meet.)

GIFT Women's Ministry Gears Up for Fall *Mark Your Calendars!*

Fall Kick-Off

Sept. 9, 6:30 –8:30 pm

Vista at Walnut Hill in Cleveland, NC

Packing Parties

Sept. 14 at 2 pm Nov. 9 at 1 pm

Rowan Helping Ministries

Christmas Party

Dec. 9, 6-8 pm

Ann Brady's House

Spring Retreat

March 18-20, 2022

Bonclarken– Flat Rock, NC

Look for more information as we get closer to each event. If you have any questions, email Kristin May at kmay717@gmail.com.



Ongoing Discipleship Opportunities

Contact Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org to sign up

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

8-9 am

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

With Pastor Rhodes, 8-9 am

Independent Studies

Check out our independent study offerings at:

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

What is Radical Hospitality? Check *FaithLife* and our website in the month of August for information on how you can become involved as we cast a new vision for hospitality here at St. John's!



Charlotte Knights vs Durham Bulls -*Take me out to the ballgame!*

Join us for a time of fellowship and baseball as we enjoy a nighttime game in the Knights' beautiful, new uptown stadium.

Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021

Time: 7:04 pm

Location: Truist Field 324 S. Mint St. Charlotte, NC

Cost: \$20.00 per person (includes \$2.00 loaded onto ticket for concession purchases)

\$5.00 parking pass (available to purchase)

Please note: We will have the church mini-bus available if needed. Truist Field is a CASHLESS venue once inside the park.

Register by July 28 if you can join us! You can send a check into the church for the number of tickets and parking passes you want or you can use our online payment system. (Choose Other) Payment by check or online – Designate "Charlotte Knights."

Have questions or finding out after July 28? Email Danny Hines at danny@stjohns-salisbury.org

Save the Date

More Details Coming Soon!

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

A Congregation-Wide Work Project at Isenberg Elementary School

Sunday afternoon, September 12 at 1:30 pm

CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC AT BELL TOWER GREEN PARK

Sunday afternoon, September 26 at 4-6 pm

Paula Levianu is Named St. John's CDC Director

Welcome, Paula!

By Susan Shinn Turner

On June 14, St. John's Child Development Center welcomed a new executive director.

"Everything is going well," says Paula Levianu. "I'm focusing on staff and maintaining what's going well. They are very tired from the pandemic. They have worked so hard. I want to focus on being a team and stabilize the staff we have."

Paula is in the process of hiring more staff, and there is a waiting list for the CDC.

Paula moved to Salisbury from Pennsylvania and has just gotten settled into her new apartment. She applied for the job through Indeed.com, and had phone and video interviews before her in-person interview. Paula's sister and her family live in Graham, and that plus the lure of warmer weather was an irresistible combination.

"Every time I would come to visit," she says, "I thought, why am I not living down there?"

Paula says that the staff and church have been very welcoming. "I'm impressed with the heart that's behind the staff. They're here for the children and families, and that's the right reason."

Paula has 30 years' experience in early childhood care and education. Ironically, she says, she's worked at a St. John's before. She taught fifth through eighth grades at St. John the Baptist Catholic School. She's worked in quality control for childcare centers. She's also worked with the Pennsylvania quality rating system for childcare centers. It is similar to North Carolina's in that it uses the star rating system. She's worked in childcare centers, been the designator for the rating system, and has supervised designators.

"I feel really comfortable with what's expected at a 5-star quality level," Paula says. "If we have a sound foundation and do what we are supposed to do day to day, we'll be able to quickly maintain a high quality of care. If the processes and policies are in place to be sure the quality is there, it runs on

its own. You just have to make sure it continues. Staff is already on a roll with what needs to happen. I just want to fine tune at this point."

Paula says she is impressed with how the staff, church and families are willing to work together. "I am absolutely thankful for that."

The late Dr. Shirley Ritchie founded the CDC. Her vision of what it should and could be continues today, Paula says.

"The staff continues to make a difference. The love of early childhood care makes a huge difference."

Paula was a senior in high school when her school ran a pre-school three days a week. As a freshman in college, she thought she wanted to be an interior designer, but one class changed her mind.

"I did a lot of soul searching and decided to look into it," Paula says of her chosen field.

She's currently at work on a master's degree in Early Childhood Studies: Administration, Management, and Leadership.

"Challenges are important to me," Paula explains. "They keep me motivated and keep me going. I'm driven by challenges. If I'm the director of a childcare center, I want the degree to back it up."

Paula has a daughter, 24, who works at an animal shelter in Pennsylvania.

Away from work, Paula enjoys being in nature, especially kayaking with her miniature dachshund Lucy, 12.

"She's still pretty spry," Paula notes.



Paula Levianu, new CDC director

“Made New”: Celebrate with Seasons Gifts in August

Shop with a Mission. Shop Seasons Gifts.

By Angel Owens

Recently in staff devotions, Pastor Rhodes asked us what it is that is begin made new in our lives. After the last year, there are so many instances of the old being made new and new life forming that we can celebrate around us. From new babies to new staff members (Welcome Ricky and Paula!) to new steps in our faith journeys!

This August, we celebrate in particular monumental milestones in celebrations of new life through births and confirmation! Consider a gift that supports missions that support the marginalized—giving them a chance at something new!

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, more babies are born in August than any other month.

Milkbarn

When making purchases for the little one on the way, consider Milkbarn burp cloths and swaddles. They come in the sweetest animal patterns, including bunnies, horses, elephants, and my favorite, lions!



In 2015, Milkbarn formed a partnership with Exile International.

“From the beginning, our hearts longed to help others. We didn’t know our path, we didn’t know our calling, but we knew we wanted to be used. A simple prayer of “use me, use us” guided our day-to-day actions. In 2008, we heard of the brutal abuse of women and children in the Democratic Republic (DR) of the Congo; our hearts broke. Our finances limited our ability to help, but we gave what we could and we gave from our heart. We had found our purpose.

“Fast forward to 2015 and our paths crossed with [Exile International](#). Their work and their mission aligned with our mission. We knew many spoken and unspoken prayers led us to Exile International and a partnership began. By partnering

with Exile International, we bring awareness to this extraordinary organization and we further our purpose of helping the women and children of the DR of the Congo. This very purpose guides us every day.”

How does each purchase help? Milkbarn’s website has this to say, “Every purchase from Milkbarn directly helps Exile International and the children of war to heal their mind, body, and spirit. Our collaborative efforts allow these recovered children to become leaders of tomorrow in their local communities.”

For the expectant or newborn you want to spoil, also consider Cheeky Chompers (woman-owned), Bunnies by the Bay (partners with a myriad of children’s charities), or eeBoo (sustainably sourced, woman-owned, etc.).

August is the time for another special milestone.

On Aug. 15, we will also celebrate 15 of our young people as they share their faith journey on Confirmation Sunday.

In Seasons Gifts, you will find confirmation gifts like picture frames and jewelry.

One of my personal favorite vendors is My Saint My Hero.

Wearable Blessings

The Mission of “My Saint My Hero” is “to create Wearable Blessings that empower global communities through meaningful work and remind us that we are loved, blessed, and protected.”

The company was founded on the belief that God is real, prayer works, love heals and miracles happen. The company was founded with an inspiration to bring the stories of the saint to young people as a reminder that we are all called to be saints.



Seasons Gifts



A word on empowering communities from My Saint My Hero:

“[My Saint My Hero] bracelets are handwoven in Medjugorie, Bosnia and Herzegovina by artisans who pray as they tie each knot, infusing each piece with love and prayer. This meaningful work helps these artisans rise above poverty through the dignity of their beautiful trade.

“Several of our pieces are beaded in Cambodia by girls and women rescued from trafficking. Your purchase helps restore dignity and combat human trafficking through empowerment, advocacy, and prevention programs... one bracelet at a time.

“A number of our Wearable Blessings are made by workers in Mexico. Because of you, they have the opportunity to earn a



living and alleviate the daily struggle to make ends meet.”

This August, shop with a mission. Shop Seasons Gifts.

Usher Volunteers Needed

Volunteers, both men and women, are needed to assist with ushering before, during and after funerals and/or memorial services.

If you are interested and able to assist with this important ministry please contact David Phillips at 704-431-4134 or PHILDL5@aol.com.

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



Pastor Laura welcomes new members Stacey and Joe Evans at a recent service. VBS began that evening, which accounts for the rather colorful displays.



Pastor Rhodes interviews new contemporary worship leader Ricky Howsare as part of the sermon on July 11.

New Members

Bobby Dale Smith joined June 13 at 11 am worship. Before retirement, he served as both a musician in the Methodist and Lutheran Church and social studies teacher. He says, "I love the church, modeling ships, all types of music, history, working with youth, and volunteer work."

Rick and Lynn Fior joined St. John's at 9:27 a worship, June 13. Previously members of St. John's, they moved out of the area and began attending again after returning to Salisbury to be near their children and grandchildren.

Stacey and Joe Evans joined St. John's at 9:27 am on June 13. Joe works for Bell and Howell as a Tech Support Engineer and served in the Marine Corp. Stacey has spent the last 16 years working in early childhood development as pre-K teacher/ director of a preschool here in Salisbury.

Baptism

Elizabeth Anne Kenerly, daughter of Scott and Kacie Kenerly, granddaughter of Bill and Toni Kenerly, was baptized Sunday, July 18 after the 11 am service.

Kirstyn Nyomi Agiana Mason and Kendall Deanna Sharlene Mason were baptized July 25 at 11 am.

Volunteer with Barnabas Connection!

By Nancy Gaines

After a year's hiatus due to COVID-19, we are gearing up for another year of Barnabas. The Barnabas Connection is an after-school arts program at St. John's for at risk students at Knox Middle School. Through arts programming and positive adult interaction we provide a safe place for students who are facing challenges in their lives to express themselves and to find supportive adult companionship.

The students who participate are chosen by the counselors at Knox for a variety of reasons. Some have recently lost family members and need a comforting place to be and adults to talk to who are not dealing with their own grief. Some are experiencing homelessness and are living in crowded places where they have no quiet or space of their own, and no adults not stressed out by the circumstances with whom to talk. Some live in households where there are abusive relationships and need time away from the trauma and supportive adults to talk to. There is a wide variety of other reasons that the students we work with need just a little extra support.

We meet at St. Johns, Wednesdays from about 2:45 to 5 pm, throughout most of the school year. We share a meal, share "circle" time where we talk about issues and problems facing these young people and look at skills to cope with these problems. Then we sit down together and make art; and while we work we talk and try to provide guidance, and solace, and help to these young people.



Come make a difference in a young person's life. Be a part of Barnabas. We need volunteers of two kinds. Individuals that can come regularly, weekly if possible, to provide adult support and companionship for these children. And individuals (or groups) who want to share an art project with these young people.

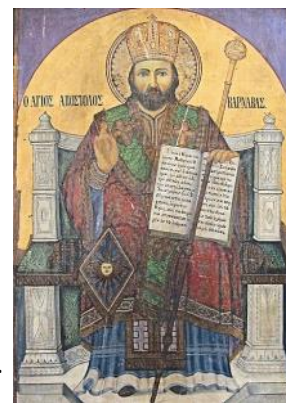
If you are interested in doing either contact me at ngainescfa@gmail.com. We will be starting back the last week of September and there will be at least one introductory meeting before that time.

Who was Barnabas?

Barnabas was one of the prominent Christian disciples in Jerusalem. According to Acts 4:36, he was a Cypriot Jew. Named an apostle in Acts 14:14, he and Paul undertook missionary journeys together, with a particular heart for those who didn't know the gospel. His name means "son of encouragement" and, thus, serves as the perfect role model for our Barnabas Connection ministry.

Barnabas' story appears in the Acts of the Apostles, and Paul mentions him in some of his letters. Of particular importance is that Barnabas "opened the door" for Paul to join the apostles (Acts. 9:27) — a gesture of great hospitality and love, and the reason we chose this verse in naming the 9:27 service. Acts 11:24 describes Barnabas as "a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith."

Although the date, place, and circumstances of his death are historically unverifiable, Christian tradition holds that Barnabas was martyred at Salamis, Cyprus. He is traditionally identified as the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church.



Icon of St. Barnabas (1921), Museum St. Barnabas Salamis (Cyprus).

“Strength, Hope, Resilience”

St. John’s welcome the NC Poet Laureate to an event in the Faith Center

August 7, 2021 11:30 am

By Karen Puckett

Performing artists from around the community will celebrate the strength and resilience of communities of color during an afternoon of music, dance, and spoken word in the Faith Center, Saturday, Aug. 7 at 11:30 am.

Featuring a performance by the NC Poet Laureate, Jaki Shelton Green, *Strength, Hope, Resilience* is part of a two-day series of events in downtown Salisbury surrounding the installation of a historical marker that commemorates the Salisbury lynchings of 1906. The marker will be located one block north of St. John’s, between the curb and sidewalk along North Church Street, adjacent to the Oak Grove Freedman’s Cemetery.

Other events that weekend include *Historic Marker Dedication & Service of Remembrance* at Soldiers Memorial AME Zion at 7 pm on Friday, Aug. 6 and *Equal Justice Initiative Speaks!* at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church at 10 am on Saturday, Aug. 7, ending just prior to the St. John’s event.

The historical marker and series of events is the product of a partnership between the local grassroots organization Actions in Faith and Justice and the Alabama-based Equal Justice

Initiative which has placed similar markers in several states. The Salisbury marker will be the first installed in NC.

The Conversations that Matter team is led by Geoffrey Hoy and meets regularly to plan events and activities that address today’s complex societal environment. The Conversations that Matter team echoes the sentiments of the church’s Vision for Racial Healing whereby our congregation pledges to oppose racism in all its forms, work for the healing and health of our community, and build relationships of trust and solidarity with people in and beyond our congregation so that we may grow together into the people God desires us to be.

Historic Marker Dedication & Service of Remembrance

Friday Aug.6 at 7 pm
Soldiers Memorial AME Zion

Equal Justice Initiative Speaks!

Saturday Aug. 7 at 10 am
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

Service of Music, Dance, and Spoken Word

Saturday, Aug. 7 at 10 am
St. John’s Lutheran Church Faith Center

Journey to Montgomery for a Civil Rights History Tour

Sept. 29- Oct. 2, 2021

Organized by Conversations that Matter Committee, the tour includes, Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, as well as, Freedom Rides Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum, and the Civil Rights Memorial Center. In Selma, the group will visit the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, the Edmund Pettis Bridge, and the Lowndes Interpretive Center, which is near Selma. Each evening, there will be time for group discussion.

Travel insurance is available.

It’s not too late to sign up! Contact Pat Roos, 704-232-0171.



National Memorial for Peace and Justice - Raise Up by Hank Willis Thomas (photo credit_ Equal Justice Initiative)

Leadership

Submit Council Nomination Forms by September 15!

A Letter from the Council President— Mike Edwards

On behalf of the Congregation Council of St. John's Lutheran Church, and the Nominations and Election Committee, I extend this invitation to each of you to prayerfully consider becoming a part of your Congregation Council leadership. From personal experience, I have found this a fulfilling experience in which I have been able to grow personally.

Every member of St. John's has the opportunity for service on our Congregation Council. The term of service is three years. The nomination period begins Aug. 1, 2021 and continues until Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 at 5 pm. Please consider this an invitation and an opportunity to guide and direct our congregation by seeking nomination for yourself, or suggest to other members that you think they should consider nomination.

There is no limit to how many individuals may be nominated. Nominees should complete the nomination form online at stjohns-salisbury.org/congregation-council-form by Sept. 15, 2021 together with the personal information form and

picture. Additional forms are available in the church office.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021 at 10:15 am in the Main Sanctuary. Contemporary worship will be held as usual at 9:27 am, but there will not be an 8:30 am worship service. The membership of the Congregation will assemble at 10:15 AM for the business meeting, which will include the election of five (5) new Council members to begin serving January 1, 2022. Counting of ballots will begin at 11 am.

Please join us and vote.

Yours in Christ!



Mike Edwards

Council Updates

June 15, 2021

- Dennis Rogers provided the devotion.
- VBS Started, 15 students volunteered to lead 120 Children, High school Students celebrated end of school, Senior Seasons is back in person.
- We discontinued the mid-week chapel services
- Personnel and Supervisors will begin staff reviews, and all staff job descriptions will be revised and updated.
- G2G Phase 2: Demolition and abatement in Fellowship Hall have begun.
- Replacement of HVAC unit will be part of the G2G project
- We are continuing to look for a Stewardship Chairman
- New Business
 - Dr. Larry Cartner reported on the Synod Convention
 - Peeler-Casey Application for Meals On Wheels
 - Peeler-Casey Application for St. John's CDC

July 20, 2021

- Randy Overcash led the devotion.
- 2nd quarter reports were shared by ministry group leaders.
- More volunteers are needed at the reading program at Isenberg School and Community In Schools.
- Return to in-person Council meetings has been postponed. Meetings will continue via zoom.
- Nominations and Engagement Committee is striving for 5 - 9 candidates.
- Council reviewed questions about the Vision for Racial Healing. Members are invited to contact Pastor Rhodes or Mike Edwards with other questions or comments.
- We will review any proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be planned for the next Annual Congregation Meeting.
- Memorial Funds were approved for the purchase of the video equipment for the Faith Center to allow streaming.
- The Call Committee, led by chairman Carole Parrott, are looking for five to seven members.

Next Council Meeting is August 17, 2021.

Providing tablets and cell phone data for students in Guatemala

“COVID-19 has not been good to Guatemalans.”

By Hannah Nadeau Girón, Escuela Integrada Director

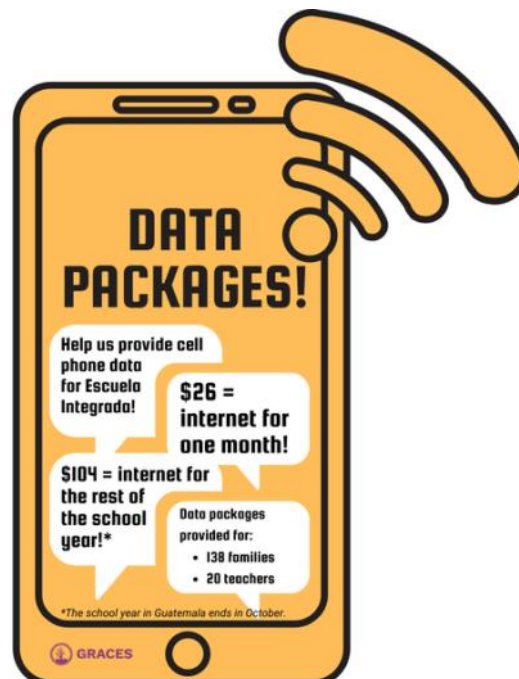
In Guatemala, the already-challenging economic situation became much worse with the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. Quite simply, COVID-19 has not been good to Guatemalans. Because of the pandemic, children have been attending school from home for almost **two years**, since the academic year in Guatemala begins in January and ends in October. Since less than 4 percent of Guatemalans are vaccinated, our students will continue learning from home for the rest of this year, and likely for next year as well.

But how do you teach and learn remotely when the vast majority of our families do not have access to a device or WIFI? To support the children’s continued learning, we are raising money during the months of July and August to purchase tablets and cell phone data packages for the kids to use during at-home learning. A tablet costs **\$105** and cell phone data costs about **\$26** per month. With these two items alone—an educational tablet and cell phone data—the kids are able to participate in live lessons with their teachers and complete assignments.



A benefactor has agreed to match all donations up to \$3000. If you donate \$105, one tablet automatically becomes TWO tablets, and if you donate \$26, one month of cell phone data becomes TWO months! To learn more or to support this effort, please visit <http://wearegraces.org/tablets>.

For general information about GRACES or Escuela Integrada, please visit our website www.wearegraces.org. You can also email us at info@wearegraces.org with any questions!



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 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:

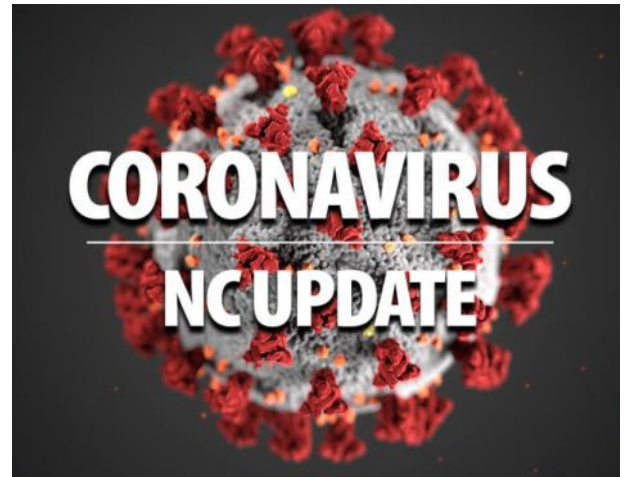
- Dr. Chris Agner, retired physician – 704.314.5306
- Alyssa Harris, director, Rowan County Public Health Department, alyssa.harris@rowancountync.gov or call the COVID direct line at 980.432.1800
- Krista Woolly, executive director, Community Care Clinic, 704.754.3832, kwoolly@communitycareofrowan.org

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.

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.

Review our guidelines at stjohns-salisbury.org/covid



Weekly Worship at St. John's

(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.

Stewarding God's Resources *Quarterly Financial Report*

Kindergarten, August 2020 through June 2021 (school year)

Budget Income: \$ 86,150	Actual Income: \$ 86,018
Budget Expenses: \$ 86,150	Actual Expenses: \$ 81,701
	2021 net: \$ 4,317
	Fund Balance: \$ 43,400

Child Development Center, January through June 2021

Budget Income: \$667,502	Actual Income: \$ 676,433
Budget Expenses: \$664,707	Actual Expenses: \$ 655,922
	2021 YTD net: \$ 20,511
	Fund Balance: \$ 84,615

St. John's Lutheran Church, January through June 2021

Budget Income: \$ 671,418	Actual Income: \$ 676,491
Budget Expenses: \$ 712,073	Actual Expenses: \$ 643,487
	2021 YTD net: \$ 33,004
	Fund Balance: \$ 279,282

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 and G2G construction, 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

Around the Congregation

Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians
Celebrating August birthdays:*

Becky Auten, Donna Beilfuss, Beth Boger, Charles Dabbs,
Loyd Hill, Doris Hillegass, Harold Mowery, Ermine Peeler,
Peggy Rouzer, Bobby Rusher, Bill Safrit, Norman Sloop,
Rich Soderberg, Mildred Warlick, Carl Yost

Thank you to members of
St. John's for your beautiful get well
cards, telephone calls, meals and
prayers following my surgery.



- Linda Phillips

Thank you for all the cards and messages received
after the passing of my son, Steven Benson. It was
greatly appreciated.

- Fran Hoke

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls,
and visits after my fall and hip replacement. They
meant so much to me— more than you will ever
know. God bless all of you!

- Barbara Stauffer

It is with a grateful heart that I give thanks to my
church family during my recent illness and
hospitalization. All of the cards, flowers, meals, but
especially, the prayers for healing, were a blessing to
me and Tommy during this stressed time. What a gift
St. John's is to us as you emulate the love and care
of Jesus!

- Mary Willis Page

Condolences

Larry and Marvie Cartner, on the passing of Larry's
Aunt, Lounelle Selle (age 92), on June 24.

Diane Ryan and family, on the passing of her
grandson, Caleb Jarvis, on June 19.

Laura Sumner and family, on the passing of Sonny
Allen on June 14. His funeral was held at St. John's on
Thursday, June 17.

Elizabeth Trick and family, on the passing of her
father, Chan Sun Kang, on July 4, 2021.

Prayers for Denise, Fred Krusemark's Daughter-in-law,
on the unexpected passing of her mother, Nancy
Grosevenor, on Saturday, July 3.

Tommy Carlton, Meetta Lampert and family, on the
passing of their brother-in-law, Tommy Lewis.

Terri Martin Hosch and family, on the passing of her
husband, Christopher Hosch on June 2. His funeral
was held on June 9 at St. John's.

Friends and family of Walter Tatum, who passed away
on June 2. His funeral was held on June 10.

Congratulations

On the marriage of Madison Hines and Steven
Schmoll on June 26, 2021 in Manhattan, KS. Daughter
of Danny and Rosalind Hines and granddaughter of
Julius and Barbara Waggoner.

On the marriage of Betty Roof's grandson, Ryan
Robinson to Rebecca Dotson on June 26.

On the birth of Madison Hanners, great grandchild of
Wade and Peggy Rouzer on Monday, May 31.

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
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Ricky Howsare

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 Director Paula Levianu

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 Hours

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 7
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 July 28

Eagle's View Deadline

The September Eagle's View will be published in August.
Please email stories and news to
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by August 13!

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.*