Let's connect faith and life. Together.



A Conversation about Stewardship

By Susan Shinn Turner

If you've ever heard Pastor Rhodes Woolly speak about stewardship, he often tells this story.

In the early days of his marriage to Krista, Rhodes was in seminary and they only had one full-time income.

When stewardship season came around, he told his father, Pastor Don Woolly, "Dad, we can't afford to tithe."

His father responded, "Son, you can't afford not to."

So Rhodes and Krista have made tithing part of their rhythm of giving ever since, as have the two couples we interviewed for this story on stewardship: Franco and Brenda Goodman, and Bryan and Mary Wymbs.

"Stewardship is an important part of discipleship," Pastor Rhodes notes. "In the first pages of scripture, we are invited to partner with God in caring for God's creation —something we do with our time, talent, and resources. But stewardship doesn't come naturally for lots of Christians and, for some, the topic is taboo. Thanks so much to the Goodmans and Wymbs for their willingness to chat about such an important topic, and for being models in good stewardship."

Here's the Q&A with the two couples.

Susan Shinn Turner: How long have you been members of St. John's?

Mary Wymbs: We joined 17 years ago, one year before Millie was born. I grew up Methodist and Bryan was unchurched. We wanted to start a family. St. John's was the first place we went, and we loved it.

The Wymbs have two daughters. Millie, 16, serves on the Call Committee for the associate pastor and has been nominated as the youth representative to our Congregation Council. Along with Millie, Cora, 14, is an active member of the youth group. Both girls have helped with VBS.

Franco Goodman: Brenda and I have been members of St. John's for 40+ years. I grew up Methodist only a few blocks up the street from St. John's. I remember congregating with friends at the old service station next to the church. I had good friends who were a part of the youth group here, so when I married a Lutheran, it just seemed natural to join St. John's.

Continued to page 14.

Pastor's Letter



I learned how to give from my parents. From an early age, I was introduced to a Sunday morning - sometimes Saturday evening — ritual of watching dad write a check and place in that day's offering envelope. I can still see his tongue wet the glue on back and seal it tight. After writing "Woolly" on front, he tucked it in such need of God's love. in his shirt pocket, an inch or so peeking out the top. Later

give me a dollar bill that I'd put in my own offering envelope, seal it tight, write my name on the front, and tuck it in my pocket for church. Just like dad.

Before leaving the house, I'd open the top drawer to dad's dresser where he kept a wooden box filled with change. One ministries we care about, and schools we love. We hope quarter. That was for Sunday School.

When I got to 5th grade, my Sunday School class was right next to the drink machine, loaded with 12 oz glass bottles of soda. The cost: 25 cents. A quarter. And I always had a quarter in my pocket.

Even though I wasn't a kid with particularly good discipline, I never dropped the quarter in my pocket into the drink machine. For whatever reason, I knew that that quarter was for Sunday School, and that's where it went.

Since I was a kid, I've always enjoyed giving, although the ritual itself has changed somewhat over the years. We still give weekly, but these days it's through automatic draft. And although our own kids don't see us writing the check, we talk openly about giving, so I hope that will make a difference.

At the end of the day, I want them to enjoy giving too and see its tremendous impact — for the sake of the community we love, the church that has formed us, and the world that's

I'd give anything to watch my dad carefully make out his in the morning my mom would check one more time, signing his name so deliberately, faithfully, lovingly. Even as a kid, I could tell that it was never a burden for him. It was an opportunity and a responsibility. A true joy.

> Krista and I feel so blessed to give, especially to our church, you'll join us in responding to this year's Annual Campaign. If you'd like to talk more about it, just let us know.

May God bless you with peace and light this month. Our very best to you.

+Pastor Rhodes

Calling A New Pastor

The Call Committee began interviewing associate pastor candidates in late September. Formal interviews follow an extensive process of developing the congregation's Ministry Site Profile and six hours of Call Committee training. No doubt our committee members are well-prepared for what's next!

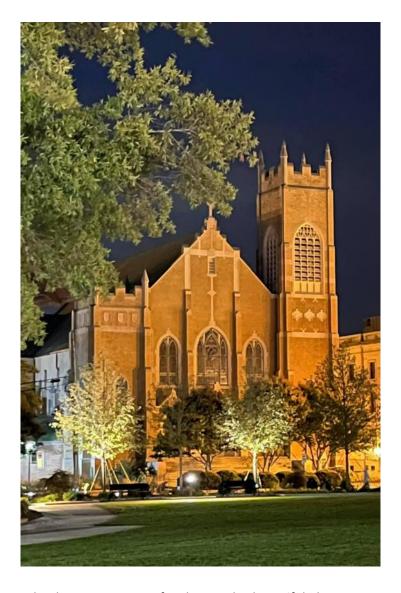
Call Committee members include Carole Parrott (chair), David Hord, Heather Brady, Mimi Carlton, Nichole Towns, Jay Dees, Millie Wymbs, and Kim Lentz. Because candidates are drawn from around the ELCA, initial interviews are conducted via Zoom. When the candidate pool is narrowed, the committee will meet in person.

The Committee welcomes the suggestions of all members of St. John's for associate pastor candidates. If you know of anyone who meets the following criteria, please fill out the form (found in the church office or Faith*Life* email) and email Carole Parrott, at cyparrott@herffjones.com. Criteria:

- Candidates should be a member of the clergy roster of the ELCA, although consideration will be given to those with whom the ELCA is in full communion.
- All ELCA pastors in good standing are eligible.
- Non-rostered candidates will not be considered.
- The Committee will take each nomination seriously and share appropriate names with the office of the bishop. If a nominee is from a synod other than North Carolina, Bishop Smith will obtain clearance from the nominee's synod before being contacted.

As we enter this next phase of calling a new pastor, we ask that you will pray for proper discernment, in thanksgiving that God is raising up a new leader for St. John's and our Salisbury community.

If you have any questions, contact Carole Parrott or any member of the committee.



Thank you to Joe Sims for sharing this beautiful photo, taken from inside Bell Tower Green. The new park in downtown Salisbury — directly across the street from St. John's — opened to the public on Oct. 1. For a more dramatic look at the picture, check out the full color version by reading this newsletter on our website, stjohns-salisbury.org.

Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids is our children's ministry at St. John's. Kingdom Kids is relational, formative, and fun! Our goal is to create a greater impact in the lives and faith journeys of our children by intentionally reiterating lessons learned at home in church and vice versa.

Sunday School

Children, 3 years old to 5th grade, are invited to join us for Sunday School at 9:45 am.

We will meet in the lower level of the Faith Center, Nov. 7, 14, and 21.

No Sunday School Nov. 28: Happy Thanksgiving.



Nursery is available during both 9:27 and 11 am worship. Located in the lower level of the Faith Center until further notice.

Milestones

Milestones are moments in your child's faith journey for them to explore a particular part of our faith, from prayer to worship to communion. Every milestone includes hands-on teaching, a parent component, and a tool/gift that will help the child carry that faith milestone into their daily life.

Be sure to check out our new Milestone Booklet for times, dates, and what to expect during your child's next milestone.

Upcoming Milestones:

Nov. 14: 3 and 4 year olds

Nov. 2: 1st grade

Dec. 5: Kindergarten Milestone



Welcome our new nursery worker, Kirstyn Mason!







2022 National Youth Gathering

(Current 8th-11th Graders)

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Next summer's Gathering is July 24-28. Want to join us?

Current 8th-11th graders are invited to sign up for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering.

Full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of negative test is now required to attend.

Register on our website!

Calling High School Youth Looking for volunteer hours?

Volunteer hours are often needed for classes, clubs, or college applications. Consider volunteering in children's ministry Sunday mornings. Contact Stacey Shafer, Stacey@stjohnssalisbury.org for more information.



November Youth Group Schedule

Nov. 5 (6-8 pm)

High School and Middle School Movie Night in the Pit!

Nov. 7

Family Night - No Youth

Nov. 14 (9:45 am-2 pm)

RAK Attack at The Dwelling in Winston -Salem

Nov. 21 (5:30 pm-7:30 pm)
Regular Youth Group in the Pit

Nov. 28

Thanksgiving Break - No Youth

Confirmation Continues

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 2 — "The Life of Jesus" Nov 3, 6:30-7:15 pm (Zoom) Nov 10, 6:30-7:15 pm (Zoom) Nov 17, 6:30-7:15 pm (Zoom) Dec 8, 6:30-7:15 pm (Zoom)



Senior Seasons Day Trip to Seagrove Pottery

Wednesday, Nov. 17

- o Leave at 8 am
- o Private Tours & demonstrations at three potters
- o Lunch at Westmoore Family Restaurant
- o Return home at 2:30 pm
- Cost is \$5 transportation fee + cost of your lunch & purchases
- o Sign up now!



"Christmas in Williamsburg" Bus Tour: December 6-8



27 have signed up but there's room for more! Join us!

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, Virginia Living Museum, & Star of Wonder Planetarium Show (based on availability)
- Souvenir gift
- Taxes and meal gratuities
- \$459 double occupancy is due now.

Senior Seasons Christmas Luncheon

Featuring our very own Ricky Howsare



WHEN: Tuesday, December 14

WHERE: The Pit

TIME: 11:30 am - 1 pm

ENTERTAINMENT: Ricky Howsare MENU: A delicious catered meal

COST: \$10

RSVP: By contacting Diane Poole or the church office

GIFT Ministry Packing Party

Nov. 9 at 1 pm | Rowan Helping Ministries

Our women's ministry, GIFT, is partnering with Food for Thought to pack backpacks for hungry children in our community

Please park on E. Liberty St. and enter the Rowan Helping Ministries building through the lower side door.

Thank you for helping us be God's hands and feet by serving the some very special children in our community.

COMING UP: GIFT is sponsoring a congregation-wide Christmas project with our friends at The Dwelling, an /ELCA homeless ministry Winston-Salem. Be on the lookout for more information.



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Ongoing Discipleship Opportunities

Contact Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org to sign up

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Zoom, 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

Would you like to be a part of a pastoral care team at St. John's?

The good work of our **Hospital Visitation Team** was limited during Covid, but now that we are resuming a full schedule, we have immediate openings for this important ministry team. Team volunteers visit our members in the hospital every day of the week, providing a short but meaningful expression of care and prayer. Volunteers can commit to once a week, once a month, or as a substitute. Just contact diane@stjohns-salisbury.org right away!

When needed, our **Comfort Meals Team** provides healthy meals to those who have just returned home from the hospital. That ministry is led by Cheryl Sjoblom. If you are interested in participating, contact Cheryl at cbsjoblom@gmail.com.



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

Addresses have been removed from the online PDF for the safety of our members. Please contact the church office for addresses.

St. John's Partners with Local Churches and THREE Wide Help Us Cook Turkeys for Our Neighbors!

This Christmas we are partnering with THREE WIDE dinner.

Who is THREE WIDE? The following details come from their website, threewide.foundation.

"THREE WIDE is a certified 501(c)(3) started by Steve and Donna Thomas in Salisbury, North Carolina as a response to Jesus's call to His followers to help those in need... The Thomas' hope is to share with children in their community the love of Jesus Christ, just as they would hope others would do for their sons if they were unable to do so.

As of January 2017, the BIG details looked like this...

- 1 in 3 children in poverty
- 223 students in Rowan Salisbury Schools homeless
- 130 in foster care monthly

THREE WIDE wants to help these children thrive by providing them with warm meals. Fed children are happier, more productive children. We want to facilitate a giving community in Rowan County that helps provide basic needs to the

children growing up here. Through meals and coat drives we have started to create real change."

We will be joining with First
Presbyterian and
St. Paul's to provide
36 turkeys to
families in need on
Dec. 16. St. John's
will be responsible
for cooking 10



turkeys on Dec. 16. This will help give those children and their families an awesome day where THREE WIDE waits on them completely.

More details to come. If you are interested in cooking turkeys for our neighbors, please contact the church office.

Looking forward to Christmas



"This might be our next 'new' tradition!"

By Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Advent and Christmas are filled with traditions, and this one just might be your next "new" one!

Join us for a congregation-wide Advent wreath making event, Nov. 28, 5-7 pm at the Vista at Walnut Hill. Come enjoy chili, soup, a hot chocolate bar, good fellowship, and plenty of opportunities to make Advent and Christmas wreaths with fresh-cut greens and all the necessary accourrements.

Families with children will get a take-home set of daily Advent cards. Each card features a ritual, prayer, reflection, or activity for the family. Those of you who received them last year know how meaningful these cards can be!

It's going to be a great time ... and we couldn't ask for a better location: the Vista at Walnut Hill is a converted barn in western Rowan County, owned and operated by Fred and Mary Lou Williams.

I have to admit, making Advent and Christmas wreaths was a big deal growing up. My mom was always one to honor timeless traditions like these, carrying them forward in a way that was so very meaningful. Each year we'd cut greens,

berries and twigs from the yard and create our family Advent wreath, doing our best — often unsuccessfully — to make sure the four candles would stand up straight.

When Krista and I moved to Winchester, Virginia, there were few Advent wreaths to be found, especially those made from cut greens from the yard.

We lamented to our friend Jane who said, "I have lots of greenery in my yard I'd love to bring if that would help." And sure enough, Jane filled up a big corner of the fellowship hall with everything you'd ever need to made a beautiful Advent and Christmas wreath.

Traditions, like ritual, draw us together in special, unique ways. We believe this one will do the same, as we enjoy an evening at Walnut Hill, surrounded by good friends, delicious goodies, and the smell of pine and cedar.

It just might be your next 'new' tradition!

Would you like to bring something or volunteer to help with the fun? Contact Stacey or sign up online.

Wreaths, Poinsettias and Candles

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

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

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

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

Deadline for ordering will be Friday, December 10.



Donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Service bulletin.

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2021 Christmas Decorations Poinsettia's, Wreath's and Candles

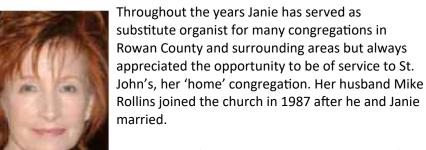
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Decoration	Price	In Memory of	In Honor of
Poinsettia	\$12.50 each		
Hanging a Wreath	\$25.00 each		
Lighting a Candle	\$20.00 each		
General Decorations	Amount \$		

Welcome Janie Rollins, Interim Assisting Musician!

We extend a very warm 'welcome home' to Janie Rollins who has agreed to be our Interim Assisting Musician for the 11 am service following the retirement of Rosemary Kinard in late September. Janie is serving as the Chancel Choir Accompanist and assisting Rob Durocher with other music for worship. Janie is also the accompanist for the St. John's Men's Chorus.

Since December of 1978, Janie has been part of the life and music ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church coming to us when she was a student at Catawba College studying for her undergraduate degree in music. At that time she came to St. John's to assist Karl Kinard, then Minister of Music as Assistant Organist and accompanist.



A large part of her service has been as the Men's Chorus accompanist under Rosemary Kinard and Jason Harwood's direction for the last 25 years

(with just a brief time away). We've had many opportunities to enjoy and be blessed by Janie's gift of music, and look forward to her partnership in music ministry again! Janie, Mike and Janie's mom, Mrs. Sarah Roberts live in Salisbury.

Join Us in Singing!

St. JOHN'S CHANCEL CHOIR continues to rehearse each Wednesday at 7 pm in the St. John's Chapel in preparation for leading worship each Sunday at 11 am. We are at the time of the year when the Festival Sundays and worship days of celebration are coming and choral readiness is critical as we look ahead towards All Saints Sunday (Nov. 7), Thanksgiving Sunday (Nov. 21), the Sundays in Advent (Nov. 28), A Service of Lessons and Carols (Dec. 19) and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24). Perhaps there is no better time than now to join us if you'd like to be part of choir leadership – you will be warmly welcomed!

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S CHORUS is rehearsing each Sunday at 4 pm in the St. John's Chapel as they prepare for *A Christmas Festival* Featuring the St. John's Men's Chorus on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021 at 4 pm in the church. We extend an invitation to Men (Middle School – Adult) who would like to be part of this musical fellowship to join us on Sundays!

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE has resumed their rehearsals and would also welcome our 'old' singers back as well as new voices! They are meeting each 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month in the St. John's Chapel at 5:15 pm. They are currently getting ready to sing during Advent and for our Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021.

A LOOK AHEAD!

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 21, 2021 – 11 am

THANKSGIVING DAY ONLINE MEDITATION

Thursday, November 25, 2021 – 10 am

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Guest Soloist, Allie McNeely, Sunday, November 28, 2021 – 11 am

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Featuring the St. John's Men's Chorus

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4 pm

CHRISTMAS ON CHURCH STREET

Friday, December 17, 2021 6 – 8 pm

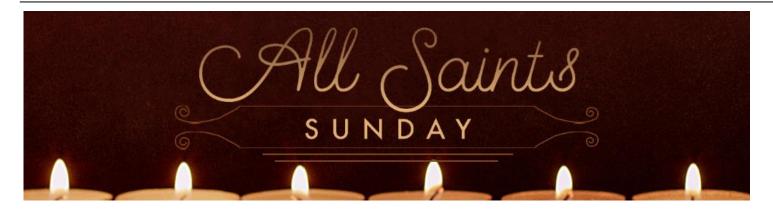
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 19, 2021, 11 am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Friday, December 24, 2021, 5 pm and 8 pm

Worship and the Arts



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

"Present." During the All Saints Litany, names will be read of those St John's members who have died since last All Saints Day. As each name is read, the congregation whispers "present." The tradition dates to Nicaragua in the 1980s when the political revolution led to the deaths of many Christians. In worship the names of the dead would

be voiced and the congregation would say with one voice, "present." The statement was a way for these grieving Christians to say that their loved ones were still present with them

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

Join us for All Saints Sunday, Nov. 7, in the Faith Center at 9:27 am and 11 am, and online at 11 am.



Join us for Thanksgiving Worship, Nov. 21 at 9:27 or 11 am in the Faith Center. The 11 am worship service will be streamed online.

For the second year, our annual Thanksgiving Day Worship will be presented online — a great way to begin your Day of Thanksgiving. Enjoy 30 minutes of song, prayer and inspiration. Available to view Thanksgiving morning at 9 am by visiting our website, Facebook or YouTube.

Around the Community

Stewardship, Continued from page 1.

Brenda Goodman: I'm not from Salisbury, so when I saw St. John's I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. Then Franco said it was Lutheran! Eureka!

SST: How do you define stewardship and how has that definition changed over the years?

BW: It's how you care for the resources you've been given. There's a financial component, but there's also your time, and how you give as far as your talents and how you pass it on to your family and friends and the community. It's not just about writing a check or doing a bank draft. It's about connecting with the church in a deeper manner, like spending time mentoring and being mentored. That, to me, is all connected to stewardship.

FG: Bryan and Mary are great examples of what it takes to be totally committed.

The Wymbs Family

Stewardship is responsible management of God's resources that we have been blessed to have. We're here to be stewards of that.

BG: To me, stewardship is more than just an old term. To me, stewardship means to support what you believe in spiritually and within the edicts of the Lutheran Church, and what you support spiritually within the scope of goodness for your fellow man.

SST: Were you taught the importance of giving or did you learn it on your own? If you were taught, who taught you and what difference did it make?

FG: I was taught by example. My mother and dad, the late Myron and Madeline Goodman, were very faithful in the church. Wilson Smith and Burt Harris were mentors for me. I watched and observed that generation, and saw how easy it was to give back.

Brenda says she first heard about giving when her pastor talked about it from the pulpit.

MW: My parents were faithful givers. I remember watching my mom write a check every single Sunday and rip it out of the register during the sermon. What a memory! And they'd always double up if they missed a service. I feel so connected through giving.

A good example is the recent Child Development Center's Outdoor Learning Environment. What a great example of so many people contributing and feeling connected to such an important mission. A lot of people coming together to make something special happen.

BW: I learned so much more about stewardship when I got involved with St. John's. I saw it as central to life of St. John's. We immediately got involved in a small group. And the thing is: when you give, you receive. It's such a joy to see the results of the contributions we've made as a family. You're part of a team.

SST: How do you make decisions about what organizations to support and how much to give?

MW: Bryan and I sit down together at the beginning of the year and talk about where the biggest needs are for the upcoming year. It changes every year.

BW: We typically support our kids' schools and St. John's.

FG: Brenda and I sit down and try to have an idea on how to help. We support what our four grandchildren are involved in.

SST: Have you ever encouraged others to give? Has that been easy or difficult for you?

Franco has been involved with fundraising for both phases of the G2G Campaign.

Continued to the next page.

Around the Congregation

Continued from previous page.

FG: Those Phase 1 meetings were some of the best meetings I've ever had. Everyone was so welcoming and eager to help. I wanted people to take ownership of what we were trying to do. The pandemic has limited personal contact for Phase 2. It's not been as easy as the first time, by any stretch of the imagination.

Bryan was on the team who raised money for the OLE.

BW: I was fearful at first. It was awkward. The anticipation is the worst part. But everyone I asked said yes, and they joyfully wanted to be a part of it.

BG: I have encouraged other people to consider what their gifts of money could mean to an organization.

SST: What advice would you give to someone who wants to develop a discipline of giving?

BG: I would suggest to someone who wants to develop a habit of giving to start out small and increase their giving as they go along and as their finances allow.

Educate yourself and find out what the church does every day all year long. Giving to St. John's Lutheran Church is uplifting as this church supports so many people and causes in this community and beyond. I am more than proud to say I am a member of St. John's and that we as a church body support the wellness and goodness of Rowan County. We support social justice. We support healthy life styles. We support our local schools. We support other churches. We support local government. We support people in need.

Anything else you'd like to add?

BW: We feel a real sense of connectedness at St. John's. There was a time when we thought about moving to Charlotte, but we didn't. St. John's was a big part of that decision.

Join us Nov. 14 for our Consecration Sunday breakfast

You'll enjoy ham and chicken biscuits, sausage balls, cookies, and more! Food will be served prior to and following each worship service. RSVP cards will be available in worship, or contact the church office.

Upcoming Congregational Meetings

Annual Meeting
Nov 14, 10:30 in the Faith Center
In person and via Zoom

Hear an annual report of the Benevolent Foundation, elect Council members, vote on constitutional changes, and return 2022 pledges

Annual Meeting 2
Dec 5, 10:30 in the Faith Center

Vote on the 2022 Budget

Serving Our Community

















God's Work. Our Hands.

What a great afternoon we had at Isenberg Elementary School on Oct. 10. This year's "God's Word. Our Hands" project involved around 60 people spanning 8 decades. It's was a beautiful day, and the place looks great!

Benevolent Foundation Awards \$25,500 in Grants

Each year, the St. John's Benevolent Foundation provides over \$100,000 in scholarships and grants to local and global partners. Grants are awarded twice each year (March and September.) Scholarships are awarded during the spring. We are proud to partner with the following organizations in their ministry efforts, each of whom received a recent ministry grant in September 2021:

GRACES on behalf of Escuela Integrada in Guatemala — Provide tablets and internet access for remote learners. \$4,250

Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem — Assistance for our mission partners who continue to struggle maintaining their ministry. \$4,000

Community in Schools — Assistance in providing school supplies, clothing and food for students in need and emergency resources for families. \$1,000

Conversations that Matter— To help bring Dr. Sonny Kelly's play, "The Talk," to Salisbury. \$2,000

Duke Lutheran Campus Ministry — Support and partnership of campus Lutheran pastors. \$5,000

Academic Intervention—After-School Program — Provide Interventionists and scholarships for students from local Title I elementary schools assisting with academic skills. \$6,000

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) — Provide support to YAGM volunteers that continue as on-site country/region representatives, walking alongside our global partners. \$2,000

Boy Scouts of America—Central NC Council — Provides at risk youth with scholarships to participate in scouting activities (summer camps, camporees, jamborees, merit badges). \$1,250

Total awarded in September: \$25,500.00



Congratulations to Ricky and Kimberly Howser, who have "officially" moved to our community. Welcome!

Congregation Council Nominees



Jay Dees

Jay Dees is an attorney who joined St. John's in 2001. Jay has served St. John's in youth ministry, nursery, and the CDC advisory board. Jay has served as a Bylaw Review committee member and the stewardship committee chairperson.

Jay says, "I am honored to be considered for this position of trust within our church. Meg and I are so very thankful for the continuous spiritual nourishment St. John's has provided to us and our children, Archie and Maggie. While we may be empty nesters now, we remain filled by the love of St. John's. And I only hope to draw on that love and nourishment in service to you and our congregation."



Carol Everhart

Carol is a teacher and homemaker. She has been very active in the music program and children's ministry. Carol directed the children's choir and helped start a children's handbell choir before Covid. She sings in the Chancel Choir and played handbells in the Luther ringers. She has helped with VBS as the storyteller and with Children's Church during the 11 am service. She participates in a small group, helped with youth ministry, and attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston as a chaperone. I have helped plan Congregational Retreats at Lutheridge and participated in mission/volunteer events, such as the Dental Clinic and Congregational Service Days. She has served past congregation as a ministry group member, teacher, music programs, youth group volunteer, nursery, Sunday School, community service, and adult bible study.

Carol says, "I would like to serve on St. John's Congregational Council because I love my church! When I joined St. John's with my family in 2011, the congregation welcomed us with open arms. Our children got involved in Weekday Church School, and I began working with the Children's Choir and participating in the Chancel Choir and Handbells. I feel that I have a lot to offer my church in a leadership role, and I would love to be able to serve in this capacity."



Jenny Ryerson

Jenny is a Licensed Clinic Social Worker/ Mental Health Therapist and has been a member of St. John's since 2008. Jenny serves 9:27 worship as a communion assistant and greeter. Jenny has been very involved with Scouts at St. John's since 2017, as a Den Leader from 2019-2021, and Pack 443 Financial Treasurer from 2019– present.

Jenny says, "Over the years, I've grown in my faith and desire to serve the church. I possess attention to detail, organizational skills, and a passion to help others. I feel I would be an asset to Congregation Council and be of assistance to the church leaders and congregation.

Congregation Council Nominees



Marian Hough

A member of St. John's since 2002, Marian is a history teacher at the Rowan Country Early College. Marian served as a council youth representative in high school. She participated in the strategies for growth team and Vision For Racial Healing writing team. She was an active member of St. John's youth, where she served in mission trips in St. Croix, New Orleans, and New York. She also regularly attended Sunday School throughout her childhood and youth. Marian also worked for the St. John's office during summer 2017.

Marian says, "As a young adult and teacher in Rowan County, I plan to spend my life at this congregation. The longevity of St. John's is very important to me. You can see Christ work through our Congregation in the many ways we help the local and global community. I want to be a part of the Council to help St. John's continue to thrive in the community and world as we prepare for the future."



David Phillips

David, a member of St. John's since 2011, is retired as Chief, Nutrition & Food Service, Salisbury, VAMC. David previously served on Congregation Council and on Executive Council as Council Secretary. He is a member of the Columbarium and Archives Committees. He is an usher and a member/teacher of the Miller Sunday School Class. He is active in Senior Seasons, small groups, and the Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study. David also volunteers with Meals on Wheels and the Heilig Resource Center at the NC Synod Office.

David says, "I have always enjoyed being involved in church related activities. My parents were always very active in church when I was growing up and this is just a natural progression to their training and influence. Working on various committees and projects in the church helps me to give back what God has given me, my time and talent."

Youth Nominees:

Millie Wymbs & Kirstyn Mason

Benevolent Fund Trustee:

Brad Brady

Find Comfort with Bunnies by the Bay

By Angel Owens

It's baby season! Don't believe me? This is the second autumn in a row that I am anticipating the arrival of more than one sweet little one. Last year, I made sure to browse Seasons Gifts for baby shower and Christmas gifts. This year, I get to do the same. My brother and his wife are expecting twins! Can you tell I am excited?

Of course, I purchase items off of the registry that expectant parents will need, but I think there is something special about finding a unique item or two from the heart. This year, I plan to peruse the items from Bunnies by the Bay, a company born out of compassion and the desire to bring comfort to little ones. The creators grew up on Fidalgo Island, and after they lost loved ones on crab boats in the Bering Sea, they found comfort in the stories told by their Gram about the bunnies who live in her garden. From there, Fidalgo became the "Cricket Island" of their stories.

Bunnies by the Bay has the cutest stuffed animals affectionately known as lovies, baby dolls, buddy blankets, and more! They are accompanied by sweet stories and they are just as soft and cuddly as they look! It would be easy to see how any one of these items could be the stuffed animal a child attaches to for comfort throughout their life.

I love to read and know that some of the best bonding time you can have with a child is reading time. There is nothing more comforting than a bedtime ritual that includes a book, a song, and a prayer. That's why I love the idea of replacing greeting cards with books for baby showers. You just leave a sweet note for the little one and sign your name!

Bunnies by the Bay has wonderful books, and you can purchase the book and cuddly friend from the story to go along with it. You can purchase *A Pretty Girl is Pretty Inside* to go

with your "pretty girl" doll, as well as, Bun Bun and the Bun Bun book.

Not only do the items from Bunnies by the Bay provide sweet stories and comfort, but the company is "passionate about helping to create lasting change in our country and community," so they have partnered with some amazing organizations and provide a portion of their proceeds to one of a few different organizations that address childhood hunger, access to developmental play, and more! The following descriptions are provided by the Bunnies by the Bay website:

- "Kaboom! works to achieve playspace equity, ensuring all children have access to creative and fun spaces to play, grow, and thrive!"
- "Worldwide Orphans delivers programs focused on attachment, early intervention, health care, sport and the arts to communities and orphanages in Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Haiti, Serbia and Vietnam. By addressing the needs of the whole child, Worldwide Orphans giving kids strong bodies and the coping, social and life skills they need to be happy and successful in the future. Our products have been used for their toy libraries, where the Element of Play Program as made in difference in countess lives of children."
- "The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities."
- "Feed the Children is one of the leading antihunger organizations."
- "No Kid Hungry is a national campaign run by Share Our Strength, a nonprofit working to solve problems of hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world."





More From Seasons Gifts

We are excited to share two ways Seasons Gifts is engaging with our community, and we invite you to join us in celebrating these wonderful opportunities!

Seasons Gifts will be featured in the holiday issue of **Salisbury Magazine**. Be sure to look for us and tell your friends!

Seasons Gifts will also have a market hut at Spencer's Winterfest, the first two weekends in December.

The shop is now open on Sundays from 9-11 am.

The Perfect Gift this Christmas

ELCA Good Gifts

Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provide an easy way to make a real impact. Your gifts share the love of Christ one goat, water well, or school uniform at a time. This year, ELCA Good Gifts is introducing several new gifts, including: Environmentally friendly cookstove and one month of internet connectivity.

Choose a gift. Get a card. Make a difference.

Purchase a gift at https://goodgifts.elca.org/.



Shower Supplies for the Dwelling Mobile Shower

Recognizing the baptismal connections of access to a shower, the most basic human luxury, The Dwelling in Winston Salem stewards a mobile shower ministry where persons experiencing homelessness are able to be washed and renewed as a reminder of their belovedness. There is healing and dignity that comes with the gift of water, and The Dwelling, with the help of local partners and volunteers, will be stewards of that gift.

GIFT Women's Ministry and Kingdom Kids are partnering with The Dwelling's shower ministry this Advent to collect much needed hygiene supplies. More information, including a complete list of needed items to come!



Seasons Gifts

Seasons Gifts not only supports our Senior Adult Ministries, but featured items and companies support missions around the world, providing dignity to workers, meals to the hungry, educational and developmental resources to children, smiles to the sick, and more!

Seasons Gifts is open 9-11 am on Sundays, and you can support them at Winterfest the first two Sundays in December!



Senior Memory Care in Bethlehem

By Susan Shinn Turner

St. John's Lutheran Church and Trinity Oaks have forged a

partnership with Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture to conduct an onsite Senior Memory Care Program training, tentatively set for March 12-22, 2022.

Participating in the 10-day trip are Michael Connor, project manager; Bill Johnson, St. John's member, Trinity Oaks executive director, and certified dementia care training specialist; and Deana Burris and Deb Tillman, certified dementia care training specialists with Trinity Oaks. Burris is also life enrichment campus director, while Tillman is a social worker and gerontologist.

Connor explains the genesis of the training: "In January 2019, while we were in Bethlehem, two Dar al-Kalima University staff approached B.J. and me to consider developing a short-term dementia care training program. Raeda Mansour,

intergenerational program director, and Rana Khoury, vice president for development and outreach, personally shared the challenges they were experiencing caring for their mothers, who suffer from dementia.

"In addition to empowering caregivers, they shared the need to help address healthcare infrastructure issues regarding senior memory care. Over the

and receive funding from various foundations and individuals. We would welcome additional funding."







Unlike nursing homes in the United States, there are no facilities in Palestine that specialize in memory care, Connor says. There's also a cultural stigma in dealing with dementia.

"There are all sorts of issues as far as educating people about dementia," he adds.

Connor also notes, "We were planning for the training in 2020 when the pandemic derailed us. The trip is now tentatively set for March, depending on what the Delta variant is doing in the U.S. It's up to Israel to let us come into the country."

As a pre-cursor for the spring training, the team offered an Oct. 11 Webinar in which 50 people on-site in Bethlehem participated, as well as an additional 55 people online.

Dr. Mitri Raheb, university president, made opening remarks, while Mansour, who will serve as local program director, gave the introduction. Dr. Tawfiq Salman, consultant psychiatrist and neurologist, led the first session, while Dr. Ashfar Al-Husseini, geriatric and internal medicine specialist, led the second. The team from Salisbury was introduced, and details shared about the intensive four-day training that

course of 2019, we were able to form a professional senior memory care training team in collaboration with Trinity Oaks,

Continued to next page.

Global Ministries

Continued from previous page.

will take place in the spring. Nine different organizations in Bethlehem were represented.

"On behalf of Dar al-Kalima University and the Ajyal Ministry, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude for your precious time, efforts, experience and support," Mansour told the Salisbury team. "Without you, we could not make it."

After the training, there will be a debriefing day, Connor says, as well as an abbreviated tour of the area as this will be the first trip there for some on the team.

If you'd like to contribute to this project, please donate to St. John's Palestine Ministry.

A Note from The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—



Almost 15 years ago, we at Diyar were blessed with the ability to take the initiative to launch an elderly care program, "AJYAL." The program, started in 2006, offers a holistic perspective to health, healing and personal wellbeing. Unlike traditional dependency models, it has a proactive nature that explores the contributing potential of the elderly in Palestine.

The program works largely with the marginalized, underprivileged elderly living in Bethlehem who are 60 years old and above, promoting a new hope for a prosperous, meaningful, and enriched life.

It has been a wonderful journey so far. However, as our main goal is to improve the quality of life of the elderly in Palestine, sometimes it is difficult to respond to some of the growing needs and various challenges that exist here in Bethlehem. One of the major issues that we are facing today is memory decline and impairment for many of our members and other seniors in the community as they begin to show some signs and symptoms of Dementia or Alzheimer's Disease.

Unfortunately, the elderly in Palestine are at risk and are deprived of their basic human rights. There are no special healthcare services provided for them, no specialization of healthcare professionals in elderly health issues, and the elderly are left out of all health insurance plans. The only gerontologist in the area is from Jerusalem and is inaccessible for most of the elderly population in the Palestinian areas because of the Israeli occupation. Israelis do not allow any person who is a holder of a West

Bank ID to enter into Jerusalem without a special permit that is very difficult to obtain. Therefore, access of the elderly to quality specialized healthcare is almost completely unavailable or unattainable.

We desperately need a dedicated team with experience in geriatric medicine, especially dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, to conduct an extensive training for medical staff and caregivers in Palestine. This training will be conducted first in Bethlehem, then will be widely extended to include other areas of the West Bank.

It is our goal to make sure every person over 60 living in Palestine has a full and abundant life, and that includes having access to sufficient medical care.







Guatemala: Co-Sponsoring a Student

By Autumn Jones
GRACES Director of Communications

When I first heard about GRACES' Sponsorship Program, I thought it was far beyond my reach as a single 20-something living on a teacher's salary in Denver. I still had student loans, and I was already working a couple jobs to stay on top of my expenses. But, after two summers in Guatemala, I couldn't deny the reality that I still had so much more than the children at Escuela Integrada, and I was determined to find a way to sponsor a child.

I asked my parents and my sister if they would be interested in co-sponsoring a child at the school. Even though they had never been to Guatemala, they had heard about how the school was making a difference for the kids, and they replied with an enthusiastic, "Yes!"

We signed up as a family to sponsor Fernanda, a new kindergartner at the school in January of 2019. Six months later, my parents visited Guatemala and got to meet her in person. A year and a half later, my sister made the trip too.

All of us have had the chance to build relationships with Fernanda, her parents, and her two sisters. We video chat with the family and send messages through WhatsApp, assuring them of our prayers, even when we are far apart.

This January, we will have been sponsoring together for three years, and doing so has brought us closer together as a family. What I never thought I could do on my own opened a door for us to do something together that truly makes a difference for

a child in Guatemala.

You, too, can co-sponsor a student at Escuela Integrada with your family, friends, Bible study, colleagues, or even your pickle ball team!

We currently have **51 students** who need sponsors. A sponsorship costs \$90 per month, and can be split between individual contributors. Talk to your herd, and then sign up to be handpicked by a student at Escuela Integrada! If you are interested in splitting a sponsorship, and need help getting connected with others who want to co-sponsor, simply fill out the form with the amount you are comfortable contributing, and we'll help make it happen!

GRACES' Sponsorship Program connects each child with a supportive "Padrino" or "Madrina" (Spanish for Godparent) who prays for them and financially supports their holistic education at Escuela Integrada. A sponsorship costs \$90 per month.

Save the Dates!

Our annual Supporters Gathering will take place November 9-11. All supporters of GRACES are invited to participate in our annual planning meetings and celebrations! More information coming soon.

Updated COVID-19 Guidelines

As we continue to monitor effects of the Delta variant on our community, we offer the following guidelines.

First, 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 August guidelines, mask wearing is encouraged, especially among those who are unvaccinated, those who have suppressed immune systems, those who live and/or work in high risk environments, and those who feel safer wearing a mask.

Thank you for not entering 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



Many thanks to Lynn Denker and her team for organizing the Flu and Covid Vaccine Clinic, Thursday, Oct. 7. Over 50 people were served indoors and as part of the drive-through clinic!

Weekly Worship at St. John's

(subject to change)

Sundays at 11am

In-person and online. To join us online, visit Facebook, stjohns-salisbury.org or our YouTube channel and search "SJLC."

Please note: Because of G2G renovations, 11 am Worship will be in the Faith Center through the end of November.

Sundays at 9:27am

In-person worship in the Faith Center.

What happened to the 8:30 service? As you know, Covid significantly affected our "normal" worship schedule. Even now, we are experiencing less than 50 percent of our pre-Covid worship attendance. With that in mind — and as we continue in the search for a second pastor — we have a tentative plan to return to 8:30 am worship after the new year. If you have any suggestions or comments, please speak with Rob Durocher, rob@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Updates from the October Council Meeting

From Mike Edwards, Council president

Devotions were given by Pastor Rhodes out of the book of Philippians

Old Business

- After discussion, including careful inclusion of different races, a meeting will be held in November to finalize comments on the Vision for Racial Healing.
- Carole Parrott covered Call Committee Update. Two names have been recommended by the NC Synod.
- Rob covered Covid guidelines update, and recommend to wear mask when possible.

New Business

- Annual Congregational Meeting, Nov. 14 at 10:30 am in the Faith Center and via Zoom.
 - Second vote on proposed constitution/bylaw changes and amendments.
 - Election of member for the Congregational Church Council.
 - 3. Reports of the Benevolent Foundation and the results of the financial review.
- Discussion of Meals on Wheels moving to the Community Ministry Center.
- Digital Communication Policy Update introduced.
 Review and discuss at next month meeting and sign for agreement

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

<u>Youth Members</u> 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 Mercy and Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly Congregational Life – Diane Poole Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to our Octogenarians Celebrating November birthdays:

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

Buck-a-Meal Sunday

(1st Sunday of each month)
October 3

Every dollar bill donated the first Sunday of the month equals a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries. You may bring non-perishable foods on the first Sunday of the month, or to the office anytime.

Thank you for your continued generosity to this ministry!

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.

Condolences

Jeannie Yost and family, on the passing of her brother Scott Simmerson on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

Vergel Lattimore, upon the death of his wife, Joy, on October 21. Dr. Lattimore is the president of Hood Seminary in Salisbury and good friend of St. John's.

Congratulations

Steven Page and Julie Woodward were united in marriage by Pastor Rhodes Woolly on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021. Steven is the son of Tommy and Mary Willis Page. The couple will make their home in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Marian Hough and David Schouweiler, married Saturday, Oct. 23 in St. John's sanctuary.

Stewarding God's Resources

Quarterly Financial Report

Kindergarten, August through September 2021 (school year)

Budget Income: \$ 23,260 Actual Income: \$ 36,575 Budget Expenses: \$ 17,660 Actual Expenses: \$ 14,418 2021 net: \$ 22,157 Fund Balance: \$ 42,364

Child Development Center, January through September 2021

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

Budget Income: \$ 961,978 Actual Income: \$ 967,810
Budget Expenses: \$1,077,323 Actual Expenses: \$ 985,150
2021 YTD net: \$ (-17,341)
Fund Balance: \$ 228,937

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry	
Senior Pastor	Rhodes Woolly
Visitation	Wade Rouzer
Worship and Music Ministry	
Minister of Worship and the Arts	Rob Durocher, deacon
Director of Music Emeritus	Karl Kinard, deacon
Bell Choirs	Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager	•
Contemporary Worship Leader	Ricky Howsare
Program Ministry	
Children	Stacey Shafer
Confirmation	Laura Henrik
Senior Adults	Diane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)	
CDC Director	Paula Levianu
Administrative Team	
Business Manager	Ruth Ann Diehl
Office Manager	Deborah Cross
Accounting	Mark Bias
Communications Specialist	Angel Owens
Writer	
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

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.

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Please deliver by Nov. 1

Eagle's View Deadline

The December/January Eagle's View is a double issue that will be published in November.

Please email stories and news to angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by Nov. 12!

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 on our website. 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.