



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

## Shower The Dwelling with Love

### *Advent Service Project Helps Provide Showers to the Homeless*

*From their mission statement: "The Dwelling proclaims boldly that there is holiness in the identity as someone experiencing homelessness, that they share a kinship with God who reminds us all that we are all wanderers in search of belonging."*

By Susan Shinn Turner

St. John's is developing a new relationship with The Dwelling in Winston-Salem. The Dwelling is a church for those experiencing homelessness. Its founding partners are the North Carolina Synod, Moravian Church Southern Province, City with Dwellings, and Augsburg Lutheran Church.

Pastor and founder of The Dwelling is the Rev. Emily Norris, daughter-in-law of Kathy and Darrell Norris.

This Advent season, St. John's women's ministry (GIFT) and Kingdom Kids are sponsoring a service project to benefit one of the primary ministries of The Dwelling, the mobile shower unit.

Members are invited to bring shower kits that will be distributed to everyone using the mobile shower unit. Details are at the end of this article.

The Dwelling's website has this to say about the shower ministry: "Recognizing the baptismal connections of access to a shower, a basic human luxury, The Dwelling 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."

Kristin May learned about The Dwelling and invited the GIFT team to consider forming the partnership.

"We were talking about our Christmas party," she says, "and we decided we wanted to do something for the community this year. The Dwelling just made sense. Within the last year, Pastor Emily had preached here at St. John's, her husband grew up here, and the ministry was expanding. It just made sense to partner."

In addition to the service project, GIFT's Christmas party is titled "Shower The Dwelling with Love," where they'll assemble shower kits.

Our youth group is also getting involved. Caroline Parrott, interim youth director, took the youth to The Dwelling on Nov. 14 for a RAK (Random Acts of Kindness) Attack to serve a meal.

"I was planning our November RAK Attack and I knew I wanted to do something there," Caroline says.

"We left St. John's on Sunday morning at 10 am, joined them for worship, and then shared a meal with them afterwards."

She continues, "It really was a unique experience. It was come as you are. There was no music, and no churchy words. But still, I got a lot out of it. It stripped down the service to bare bones. I worshipped with people who didn't look like me and that was really cool."

"I definitely feel called to give in that way," she says. "I left there feeling like I wanted to come again. Doing something like this seems like a good way to get started."



*Continued to page 8.*

# Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

As inflation concerns grow in the US, anxious economists are beginning to talk about its impact on the upcoming Christmas season. We're a consumer society, after all, and a big driver of our economy is how much you consume/spend/buy this time of year. More spending = larger profits = stronger economy. It's pretty simple.

But the Gospel adds an important twist — that our *primary* role as a Christian isn't to be a consumer, but a contributor. We don't watch on the sidelines; we engage. We give. We encourage each other. We make sacrifices for the sake of our neighbor. We do life together.

I'm not suggesting that you shouldn't buy Christmas gifts this year! My mom taught me the joy of giving early on, so I know there's great ministry that can be tied to the way we share gifts with each other.

What we should remember, however, is that the health of our *personal* economies (our lives and relationships) isn't rooted in being a consumer, but a contributor.

What might that look like as we step into a new year? What goals come to mind as you imagine a post-Covid world?

For many of you, worshipping at home has been an enormous blessing during Covid. We're so glad to have been able to produce a service that takes seriously our live *and* online community. That will continue, no doubt, especially as our online presence grows.

Having said that — and I'm simply repeating what you've told me — it's hard to serve from the sofa. It's hard to experience community from your living room. It's hard to experience the full power of a worship gathering through the lens of a digital device.

With that in mind, I'd like to offer a challenge — or let's call it an opportunity! For those who are ready to re-engage with in-person worship, use the 4 weeks of January as a starting point. Commit to worshipping *each week*. Not just once, but each week of January. For many, it's a matter of returning to a discipline that was important to you pre-Covid. For those who are ready to establish a new routine altogether, it's a great way to get started.

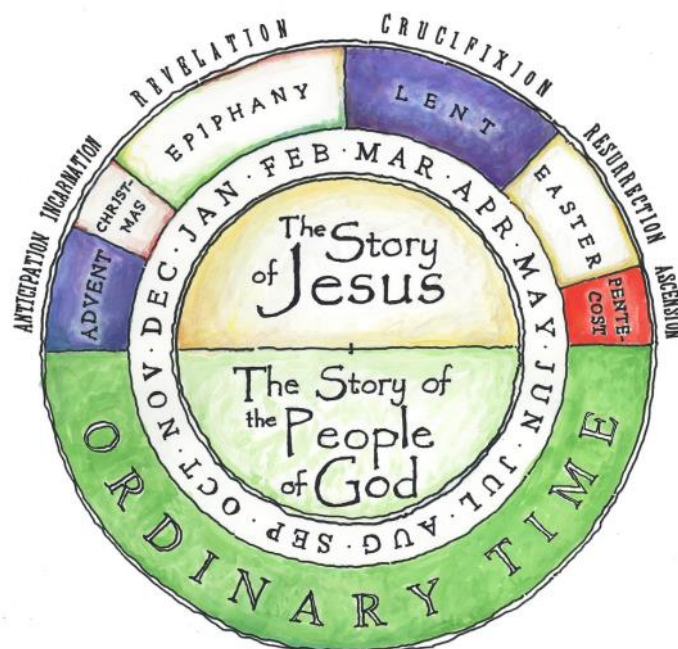
4 Sundays in January. It's a great way to begin the new year, don't you think?

Blessings to you this Christmas season. It's such a special time of year ... and you are such a special child of God. I'm so thankful to be working in the Garden with you.

+Pastor Rhodes

## Advent: A new church year begins

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter makes the pinnacle of each church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again. "Like a great waterwheel," write Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."





# Christmas at St. John's

## **All Earth is Hopeful: Advent Devotional**

See page 9 for details.

## **A Christmas Festival: Featuring the St. John's Men's Chorus**

*Sunday, December 5, 2021, 4 pm*

Come enjoy "A Christmas Festival," a concert celebrating the birth of Jesus, featuring the St. John's Men's Chorus and other area musicians. More information on page 16.

## **Christmas on Church Street**

*Friday, December 17, 2021, 6 – 8 pm*

Experience the Christmas story unfold as you take a walk along Church Street. Immerse yourself in the story of Jesus' birth, join area musicians on Bell Tower Green, and enjoy Christmas scenes provided by some of the downtown Salisbury churches. Begin at the corner of Bank and Church streets.

## **A Service of Lessons and Carols**

*Sunday, December 19, 2021, 11 am*

This inspiring service tells the story of Jesus' birth as it unfolds in scripture, carols, anthems and special readings. This special morning of music and word is led by the church's choirs, strings, brass, and organ. Suspended last year because of Covid, this time-honored Christmas tradition returns in full glory. Join us as we retell the glorious story of Christ's birth!

## **"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"**

## **A Contemporary Christmas Celebration**

*9:27 service, Dec. 19, 2021, Faith Center.*

Featuring soloists, drama, and our worship band.

*Of Note: Children will receive their Christmas chrismos during the 9:27 and 11 am services on Dec 19.*

## **Christmas Drive-through**

*Monday, Dec. 20, 2021, 5:30-7:30 pm*

Children and youth, birth to 18, can celebrate Christmas in drive-thru fashion. Enjoy some special treats and surprises. Learn more on page 5.

## **Christmas Eve Family Service**

*5 pm in the sanctuary and online*

A candlelight Christmas service with children and families in mind.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

*8 pm in the sanctuary and online*

Our time-honored festival candlelight services includes the story of Christmas as presented by brass, choirs, handbells, festival liturgy, candlelight, and the pastor's Christmas message.

## **1st Sunday after Christmas**

*Sunday, December 26 | One service only*

Unity Service at 11 am. 9:27 worshippers are invited to join at 11 am.

## Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids is our Children's Ministry. Kingdom Kids is relational, formative, and fun! First Look is for our Kingdom Kids birth to 4 years old, 252 Kids is our K-5th graders, and milestones are moments in your child's faith journey for them to explore a particular part of our faith. 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.

This fall, as we think creatively about ways to meet safely and give families a break from the virtual world, we will begin meeting in a rotation based on age group. First Look, 252 Kids, and Milestones will take place on separate Sundays to keep numbers smaller.

### Nursery workers and volunteers needed!

Nursery workers and volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact [stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org)



### First Look (Birth to 4 year olds)

How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus. Merry Christmas! It's time to celebrate the birth of our Savior! We are using the alphabet this month as a fun way to introduce the true story about how God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse:

"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US." ISAIAH 9:6, NCV



### 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders

Bowling Fun at Woodleaf Lanes Saturday Dec. 4: 10 am-12 pm. Bring \$5 cash.

### NO Sunday School Dec 19 or 26

**Parents** — please check the weekly Newsletter for upcoming events!



### 252 Kids (Kindergarten– 5th grade)

God gave us the greatest gift when He gave us Jesus. We can celebrate all year long when we remember what God has done for us.

Memory Verse:

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT DIE BUT WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." JOHN 3:16, NIRV





*St. John's Youth at the Dwelling RAK Attack*

## December Youth Schedule

December 5 - Family Night - NO YOUTH

December 12, 5:30-7:30 pm - Regular Youth Group

December 17 - Christmas on Church Street

December 19, 5:30-7:30 pm - Youth Christmas Party



Children and youth, ages 0 to 18, are invited to join us for our second annual Christmas Drive Through, Dec. 20, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Enter through Jackson Street and enjoy special treats from St. John's staff and volunteers.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus with you and your family at this fun event!



## December

**December 6-8 Williamsburg Bus Tour/White Star Tours**

**December 14 Senior Seasons Christmas Luncheon**



WHERE: The Pit

TIME: 11:30 am – 1 pm

ENTERTAINMENT: Ricky Howsare will provide Christmas and inspirational music

MENU: Lasagna, Salad, Rolls, dessert, and coffee/tea/water

COST: \$10

REGISTER ONLINE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 3.

## Senior Seasons Book Club Interest Meeting Wednesday, January 12, 4 pm

Are you interested in reading an inspirational or character-building book per month and then meeting at the church with your friends to discuss what you have read? Join us on January 12 where we'll judge interest, choose a meeting date and time, and consider books members wish to read. Light refreshments will be served.



## National Irish Coffee Day Celebration January 25

Travel to *The Harp and Crown Pub and Kitchen* in Cornelius, NC for an early dinner, topped off with Irish Coffees! We will leave the church via van at 4 pm (travel time 52 min) and return after dinner. They have a variety of different foods at reasonable prices.

## Mark Your Calendars for Winter Academy February 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2022!

We will change gears a little bit for this Senior Academy series. Many have expressed interest in programs about changes and trends in medicare and health insurance, elder law, geriatric medicine, and other resources in our community to help ourselves or our family deal with the challenges of aging. Of course, the morning will begin with a bible study taught by Rhodes Woolly. More information will be forthcoming in the January email blasts on Fridays.

### It's Coming, Get Ready —————> FAN Kickoff *READY, SET, GO!!!*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Physical activity will add years to your life, and life to your years!

The University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health has partnered with area churches to develop a program to help create healthier church environments. This program is based on three simple steps: decrease fat, decrease salt, and increase activity levels.

Why is this important? We need to reduce the risk of chronic diseases in our community. Diseases such as heart disease and diabetes cause great strain on resources in every community, reduce your quality of life and life expectancy, and most of all, reduce your ability to do the things you love such as participate in fellowship with your church community.

**WHAT TO DO? HOW CAN WE HELP?** Your Health Ministry Committee has been in training on this program. We aim to tailor this approach to meet the needs of our St. John's

community. *SO, BUCKLE UP, GET EXCITED, GET READY!*

The plan is to start small and build on the program. Stay tuned - we will reveal our first big activity plan soon. Hint: Get ready to explore our church area in Historic Downtown Salisbury. Fellowship, contests, prizes, and getting outside in the fresh air. What's not to look forward to?

Watch for upcoming details about walking groups, contests, and other fun activities!



One way to take a next step at St. John's is by attending one of our Encounter Classes.

In the class you'll learn about the congregation's purpose, various ministries, and our great desire to help you connect faith and life. In addition, we'll share basic information about the Lutheran church, including its many ministries around the world ... and, of course, leave time for your own questions.

For some, Encounter leads to membership at St John's ... although that's certainly not an expectation. It's simply an opportunity for you to learn as much as you can about this special place. If you do choose to join the church (either as a member or as an "associate member," in which you maintain

your full membership elsewhere), we will welcome new members on a Sunday that is convenient for you.

If you are considering membership at St. John's, the next step is to attend our Encounter Class.

**Our next class will be Sunday, December 12  
from 6:30 - 8 pm in Room 218.**

Please register **online at [stjohnhs-salisbury.org/encounter](https://stjohnhs-salisbury.org/encounter)** or contact Danny Hines for more information. [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org).



# Advent

*The Dwelling*, continued from page 1

The group received Thrivent grants for shower supplies and meal preparation. As Pastor Emily reminded the students, “sharing a meal is serving.”

B.J. Connor and her husband, Mike, also attended the service with St. John’s youth.

“We worshipped and ate with ‘misfits on the margins,’” B.J. says. “We were alongside people who are homeless, some who were struggling with addictions, and others who were recently out of prison.”

“During confession, people can shout out how they’re feeling like ‘afraid’ or ‘angry.’ People are free to wander in and out. The message is always that Jesus’ love is bigger than the worst thing you’ve ever done. There’s a real feeling of community, acceptance, welcome, inclusiveness, mutual support.”

B.J. recounts making a new friend, Rosalyn, who gave thanks for being “clean” 65 days. “She keeps track of the number of days on her phone. She likes to do artwork during the sermon, making comments like ‘Mm hmmm’ and ‘That’s right!’ as she colored away. She used her cigarette lighter to light the candle on our table and other nearby tables.”

B.J. and Rosalyn have continued their friendship, staying in touch through text message.

B.J. continues, “It was a very meaningful service for us. There’s a real feeling of community, acceptance, welcome, inclusiveness, and mutual support.”

Caroline Parrot echoes B.J.’s feelings toward the ministry and encourages the congregation to support GIFT and Kingdom Kids’ efforts in collecting shower supplies.

You can “Shower the Dwelling with Love” by dropping off completed Ziploc bags between now and Dec. 19. Individual items can be dropped off until Dec. 9, when GIFT will have a packing party. After that date, please only bring completed shower bags.

Items for each kit should include:

- Travel size or small bar of soap
- Travel size shampoo
- Travel size conditioner
- Travel size lotion
- Individually wrapped toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Full-sized deodorant
- Comb
- Washcloth
- Lip balm
- Travel size facial tissue

Because bus rides to and from worship and the shower ministry can be provided with \$1 bills, we will be collecting dollar bills each Sunday to provide transportation, with the exception of Sunday, Dec. 5, which supports Buck-A-Meal at Rowan Helping Ministry.

If you would like to write a check to support this ministry, it should be addressed to The Dwelling.





## Advent Pilgrimage Small Group Study

### *Wednesdays in Advent*

Advent Pilgrimage in Palestine is a four-week virtual pilgrimage from the ELCA's Peace Not Walls and Young Adult Ministry teams featuring young adult voices from the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Join us this Advent Season on the WAY to Bethlehem: Prepare, Journey, Arrive, Witness. Mike Connor will be leading the study, Wednesdays, Dec. 1– Dec. 22 via Zoom. Sign up online.

What is “the way to Bethlehem,” as Advent practice, and as Christian engagement in Palestine? What does it mean for us as Christians, and for the church, to be called to resist the injustice of “the way things are” in favor of following the disruptive and transformative way of the Lord? What does it mean for us to be “on the way”?



## All Earth is Hopeful: 2021 Advent Devotional

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

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

The Advent Devotional is available in hard copy, digital pdf, or daily on our website.



In addition to our wonderful writers, this year, a group of talented St. John's readers lend their voices to provide audio versions of our advent devotional, updated each day on our website, [stjohns-salisbury.org/devotional](http://stjohns-salisbury.org/devotional)



# Merry Christmas



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

## GIFT Women's Ministry Christmas Party!

*Dec. 9, 6-8 pm in the Pit*

Tis the season to be together! Come connect with other ladies in the congregation. All women are invited to Peeler Hall in the St. John's Faith Center for the GIFT Christmas Party, Dec. 12 at 6 pm. We will have Water, Lemonade and Mock Sangria. Don't worry about bringing a gift. Instead of our traditional gift exchange, we want to focus on helping the Dwelling Shower Ministry this year.

What to bring:

- Food to share
- Your own glass
- \$1 bills for bus rides for those in need after showers and church service
- Monetary donations (checks can be made out to the Dwelling.)
- Shower bag items (listed on page 8)

### Mark Your Calendars—

#### Spring Retreat

March 18-20, 2022, Bonclarken— Flat Rock, NC



*GIFT Packing Party at Rowan Helping Ministries  
November 2021*

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

Needed: 10 people to cook 10 turkeys (1 turkey each) for a community Christmas project. Interested? Keep reading ...

St. John's has been invited to partner with the Three Wide Foundation to provide 36 meals for needy families in the community.

The Three Wide Foundation 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." (from their website, [www.threewide.foundation](http://www.threewide.foundation))

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."

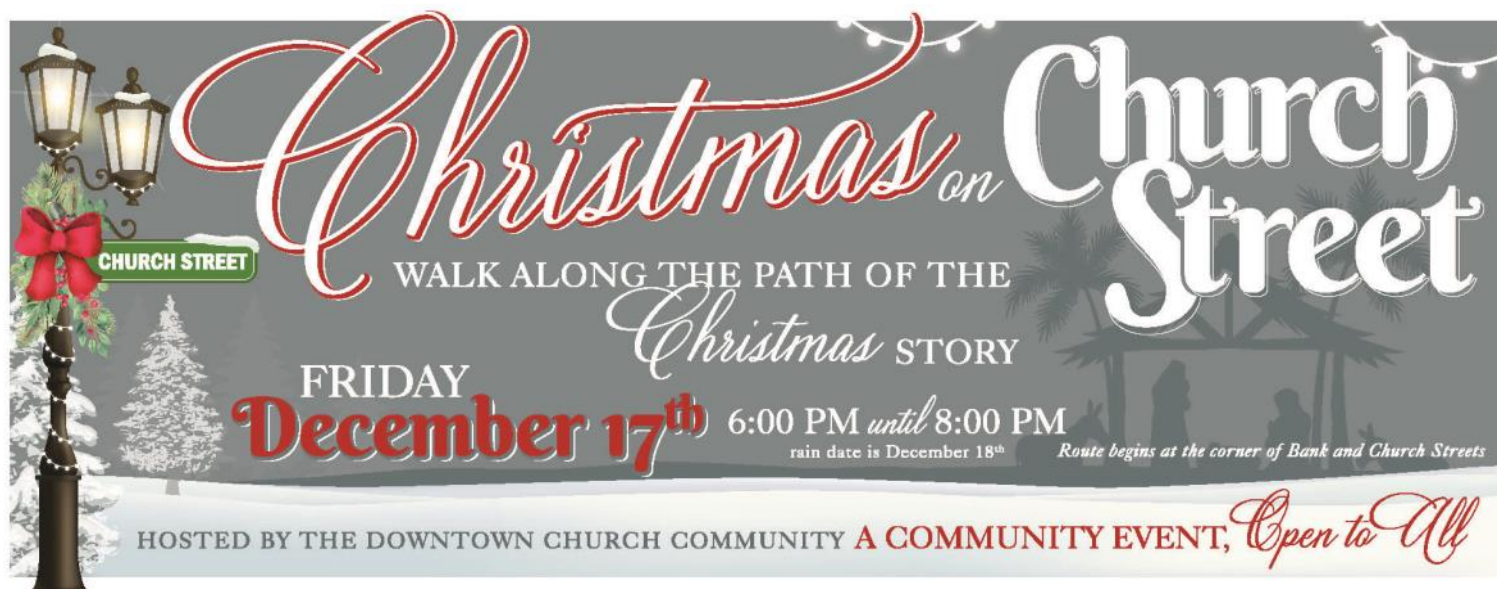
This year, we'll be joining with First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Lutheran to provide 36 turkeys and meals to families in need on Dec. 16. St. John's will be responsible for cooking 10 turkeys on Dec. 16. This will help give those children and their families an awesome day where THREE WIDE waits on them completely.

Interested? Please contact the church office.





## Christmas at St. John's



By Susan Shinn Turner

"Christmas on Church Street" is a brand new outdoor holiday celebration.

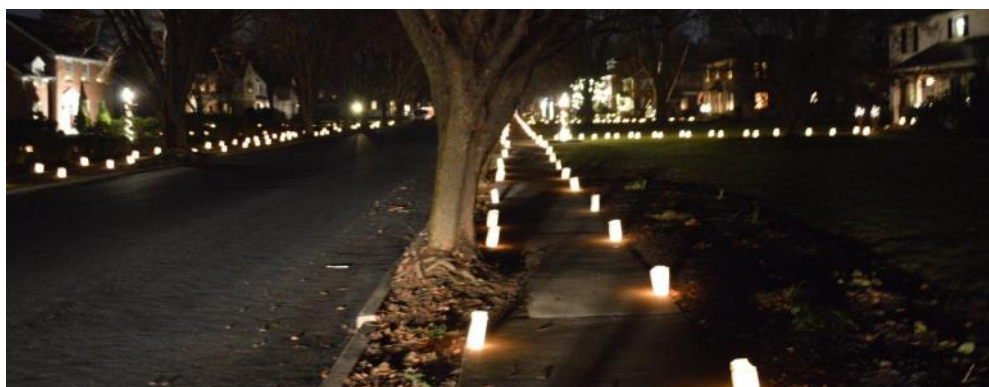
The downtown Salisbury church community is collaborating in a new event this year called Christmas on Church Street. The event takes place from 6 to 8 pm on Friday, Dec. 17, with a rain date of Saturday, Dec. 18.

Church Street will be lit with luminaries as participants walk from Bank to Council streets, all of which will be blocked off from traffic. The churches will have scenes interpreting the Christmas story, with the various church choirs and musicians singing carols on the stage of Bell Tower Green.

Christmas on Church Street begins at the corner of Bank and Church, and takes a right turn at Council, in front of St. Luke's Episcopal, where it ends. Scenes include the Annunciation, the angel's visit to Joseph, the shepherd's fields, the magi, and the manger in Bethlehem.

The participating churches are either adjacent or close to Church Street. Scout troops from St. John's and 1st Methodist will help, as well.

The St. John's scene represents the magi's visit to Bethlehem. Who knows if a camel or two might appear, but no doubt we'll engage the imagination! Would you like to help out? Let Pastor Rhodes know as soon as possible.



# 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.



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

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$_____		

## A Chrismon Tradition

### *The history and care of these very special gifts*



*Photos are from Lessons and Carols 2019*

A chrismon is the combination of two words: CHRIST and MONogram— a monogram of Christ. The plural is chrisma and the word is not capitalized. Over the years these symbols have developed so that a chrismon may be a monogram, a sign, a symbol, or a combination of such figures. The one requirement is that it refers primarily to our Lord and God.

The first chrismon tree was designed by Frances Spencer in Danville, VA, at Ascension Lutheran Church in 1957. Since then, the chrismon designs have traveled all over the world.

All chrismons are hand-made in combinations of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to the Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory.

Each year the chrismon ladies at St. John's make a miniature chrismon for each child of the congregation and each home-bound member. It is our hope that these will be kept for use and enjoyment for many years. Some families keep them well protected and at high school graduation, they are packaged and given to the child to take to college or wherever they go to begin their own life-long tradition. In fact, a miniature artificial tree would be a great graduation gift.

Questions arise as to how to properly store the chrismons. Since these are "treasures" and require much time, expense, and love to make, we hope the following ideas will help.

1. Chrismons are not generally placed on a regular Christmas tree with other ornaments. Each one has a specific meaning (explained on the card accompanying the chrismon). It would be a great opportunity to explain each one to the child as it is placed on their own miniature tree. Chrismons can also be used at other items—on the Advent wreath, places on a bare tree branch at Easter, or all year long.
2. When placing the chrismon on the tree, use regular ornament hangers to attach to the small loops and then hang on the tree. To prevent breakage, do not try to force the small loops over the limbs of the tree.
3. The wires are very delicate. Please remind the child not to bend them unnecessarily. If they need shaping after storage, be gentle.
4. Storage should be in an acid-free box with each one wrapped in either tissue paper or wax paper. They could be put in a plastic container IF wrapped first. They should not come in direct contact with plastic for storage purposed because the plastic will tarnish the beads.
5. Please keep in a dry, climate-controlled location (like a hall closet) rather than in a hot attic or damp basement.
6. Keep description/meaning of the chrismon with the box.

If properly cared for, the chrismons will last for years. Enjoy!

With love, from the chrismon ladies.

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**This year, the chrismon ladies will give the chrismons to children birth to 18 years old during both the Contemporary Christmas Celebration and Lessons and Carols on Dec. 19.**



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## Our Chrismon Ministry: *Remembering Barbara Rufty*

By Susan Shinn Turner

Of course December was the busiest time of the year for Barbara Rufty.

Rufty, who worked at Rufty's Chrismons beginning in the 1990s, was an icon of the business, and left the shop just two years ago. She died Aug. 20 at age 91.

She'll be remembered for her unwavering support of her family of five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, her holiday mints, her pound cakes she brought to work about every day. But her greatest legacy just might be found in her chrismon designs.

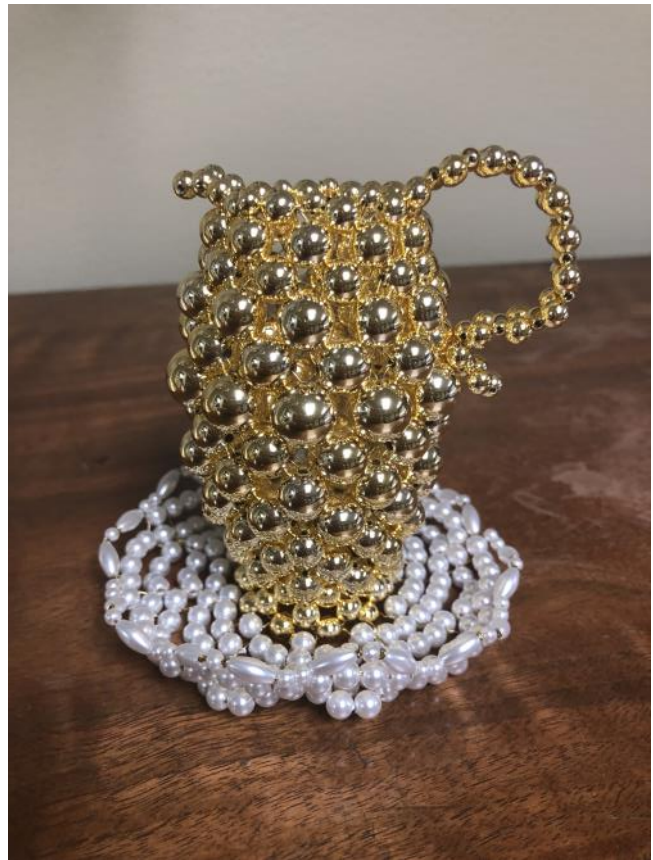
As the years went by, Rufty got to know her customers from all over the country — mostly women — by phone.



"They told her their life history over the phone," Melonie Beaver, her daughter and co-worker, said in August. "She helped them through their problems as well as any help with the chrismons."

One of her many customers said, "The chrismons are how Barbara showed her love for her Lord and Savior."

So when you see chrismons around campus this Christmas season, give thanks for the woman who played such an integral role in their creation.



# A St. John's Christmas Festival

## *The Men's Chorus is Back in Concert!*

By Susan Shinn Turner

They're B-A-A-A-A-A-C-K!!!

After a two-year hiatus, the St. John's Men's Chorus will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary.

"I knew we could do something," says Deacon Rob Durocher, Minister of Music and the Arts. "If there were enough Men's Chorus members interested, we could pull together something."

Turns out, there were. So much so that Rob was surprised at the interest. The men have been ready to go for the past two years. This version of the group, he says, "is made up of guys who have been with it from the very beginning 25 years ago, and it also has newer members."

"What's exciting to me is that we have new members who are area music directors, Josh Starnes at First Methodist, Lynn Lippard at Grace Lutheran, and Ron Corriher at Calvary Lutheran," Rob says. In addition, longtime chorus member Brandon Kepley is the music director at Salem Lutheran. "I think it's wonderful they want to be a part of it."

"Several of our choir members here sing in the Men's Chorus," Josh says. "I was looking for opportunities to get plugged into other things. They invited me to come along and I took them up on it. It's been a enjoyable experience. It's nice to be on the other side of things for a change, and it's been a great opportunity to build fellowship."

Because rehearsals started a bit later than normal, the concert will be more of a community event which highlights the Men's Chorus. Teresa Moore Mitchell and Ricky Howsare will sing duets and soloists, and cellists Kevin Agner and David Kim will perform. The Luther Ringers will perform under the direction of Kim Lentz, and Rosemary Kinard will direct one of the pieces.

Janie Rollins accompanies the choir.

"I've been hopeful the whole two years that it would be back," she says. "It's exceeded what we've expected and we're excited about that."



Kevin Agner



"I recognize the incredible value the Men's Chorus has always had in this community," Rob says. "I love that it pulls different guys together from this community."

There have been challenges in directing the Men's Chorus, Rob says, but he calls them all "joyful challenges."

"It's a different way for this group to move ahead."

President Dennis Rogers agrees. "We're back!" he says.



# Worship and the Arts

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## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our traditional "Service of Lessons and Carols" will be offered at the 11 am worship on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021 in the main sanctuary. This inspiring service tells the prophecy and birth of Jesus Christ as it unfolds in scripture, carols, anthems and special readings. Carols and anthems will be led by the Chancel Choir and will include the St. John's Women's Ensemble, soloists and Instrumental Ensemble. The music of various composers will be featured. Choirs are directed by Rob Durocher accompanied by Janie Rollins, and Deanna Boksleitner, Assisting Musicians and Davis Brown, percussion. Pastor Woolly and other readers will lead us through the glorious story of Christ's birth!



## Join the Caroling Choir for CHRISTMAS ON CHURCH STREET

The choir is opened to those who would like to add their voice to the combined choir made up of voices from our churches on Church Street as part of this year's exciting Christmas on Church Street, Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 from 6 pm – 8 pm. The Caroling Choir, or 'Church Street Choir' will be singing from the Bell Tower Green Park. We'll be singing 10 very familiar Christmas Carols in three sets of about thirty minutes each with a break in between. We will be singing in parts, but the melody is just fine. We'll be setting a one-time rehearsal date/time and will publish that and the location in early December. If you are interested in joining us please let Rob Durocher know. [rob@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:rob@stjohns-salisbury.org)

**CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearsals will continue at 7 pm, Wednesday in the choir room during the month of December with a full instrumental rehearsal on Wednesday, Dec. 15 for Lessons and Carols at 7 pm in the sanctuary and an instrumental rehearsal for Christmas Eve on Wednesday, Dec. 22 in the sanctuary.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, the Chancel Choir will gather in choir Room at a time to be determined and will lead the 8 pm Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion and Candle Light. The Chancel Choir will also robe up to lead our 11 am Sunday, Dec. 26 worship service (choir room gathers at 10:30 am). The choir will not rehearse on Wednesday, Dec. 29. We will return to rehearsing on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022 at 7 pm in the choir room.

**9:27 Worship Musicians** will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 23, and there will only be one worship service on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021 in the sanctuary. Ricky Howsare will be in touch with the rehearsal schedule in January 2022.

**THE PRELUDES OF OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** include the musical gifts of our church family. The preludes begin a half hour before each service. If you would like to be included in the preludes for either the 5 pm Family Christmas Eve Service or the 8 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service please get in touch with Rob Durocher later than Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021. Rehearsal times will need to be arranged if your piece requires accompaniment and you should be mindful as to the length of your selection.

## January 2022

**An Epiphany Service of Holy Communion** will be offered on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 in the St. John's Chapel at 12 pm. The Epiphany is a Feast day in the Liturgical year that is always observed on January 6. It is a celebration of Jesus as God Incarnate and is also traditionally used to commemorate the coming of the three wise-men to visit the infant Jesus.

**The Chancel Choir** will begin rehearsals for 2022 on Wednesday, Jan. 5 at 7 pm in the Choir Room.

**The St. John's Men's Chorus** will begin preparing for their Spring Concert on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022 in the Choir Room.

**The St. John's Women's Ensemble** will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 at 5:15 pm in the choir room.

**St. John's 8:30 am Sunday Chapel Service** will be scheduled to resume in February of 2022, contingent on welcoming a new associate pastor. Start date: TBD.



### **G2G Update: *New Sound System and Carpet in the Sanctuary***

G2G Phase 2 construction began in the height of the pandemic, a time when we were reminded of the necessity of patience and flexibility. The G2G project has come a long way. For over a month, we have been worshipping at both 9:27 and 11 am in the Faith Center. We are so blessed to have space to worship, while the sanctuary is being renovated. Because of your continued flexibility, on Dec. 5, we will return to the St. John's sanctuary with new carpet and an updated sound system, just in time for the Men's Chorus concert and Advent/Christmas season.

We would like to extend a special thanks not only to those working on the G2G project, but also to our worship leaders, choir members, tech team, and hospitality team for helping provide a smooth transition to worship in the Faith Center.



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### ***Reformation Fun!***

This Reformation Sunday fell on Halloween, so we took advantage of the weekend's festivities to have some fun! David Ellenburg from St. John's facilities staff won the pumpkin carving contest. Ali Funderburk won the drawing from our Scavenger Hunt participants. Congratulations to them both!

Special thanks to Seasons Gifts for sponsoring our prizes!



## Thank You, Jon!

By Susan Shinn Turner

Jon Koppe, facilities manager at St. John's for nearly six years, ended his service in November. He's moving to Raleigh to be with his wife, Jenni, who's been a realtor there for 25 years.

"It's tough to leave something you love so much," Jon says.

When Jon came to St. John's, he was newly divorced. He later reconnected with a woman he dated in high school.

"We just started talking and then dating," he says.

The couple married in April. Together, they share four children and one granddaughter.

"The plan was that I would move to Raleigh once we got married," Jon says.

They've had a commuter marriage since, which hasn't been ideal, he admits. "We missed each other and we wanted to live together. I started putting out job applications."



It was still a tough decision, he says. "I love St. John's. It's been a real blessing to be able to work here."

Jon has accepted a position as maintenance director at a 177-room retirement facility in Cary. It offers weekly devotions for staff, "one of the things I really cherished about St. John's," he says.

He wanted a better work environment when he came to St. John's, he says, and he found it. "I could walk in the sanctuary anytime during the day and pray. It helped bring God back into my life.

"I can't say enough about the job, the people, and the place."

"When Jon and Jenni married last spring, we knew that he would eventually transition to Raleigh, where Jenni is firmly involved in her real estate business," Pastor Rhodes says. "It's hardly fair for us to chain him to his desk — although we thought about it! Instead, we offer him our very best as they begin this new chapter in life. Jon has been a good friend, a wonderful colleague, and a faithful employee. Thank you, Jon!"

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a  
future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

## The Gift of a Memory

By Angel Owens

Pastor Laura wrote a letter for the Eagle's View last year that talked about how grief comes in waves. For some, the holiday season can be a difficult reminder that life goes on without the ones we have lost.

This is my first Christmas without my Nana. I grew up next door to her. So when my siblings visited, we would just tell mom we were "going up the hill." When I was 11, my family moved less than a mile away; I drew up a document for my sister to sign that stated she would drive me to Nana's anytime I wanted. My Nana was my favorite person. She was the matriarch of my family. She danced to Elvis, kept a pool at her house for her grandkids even though she didn't know how to swim, and would let you know that if you left her house hungry that it was your own fault.

For Christmas growing up, I just bought her Reese's cups, her favorite treat, and a candle. As I got older, I started adding little things that she mentioned she needed, like large cans of coffee and cleaning supplies. When I began working at St. John's, I continued the tradition, but would replace the candle with a specialty gift from Seasons Gifts that I thought she would like.

When I scrolled through the list of vendor partnerships to highlight for Christmas, I landed on the Mr. Bird feeder. In just a few minutes, I was back in the moment of gifting one to my Nana, and our consequential conversations, including where



best to put the feeder in her yard and how much the birds enjoyed it.

Sometimes the most unsuspecting things take us back. A sweet reminder of a gift given to someone we miss is a gift in itself.

For someone who loves to look out their window at the birds, enjoying their fourth cup of coffee for the day, I suggest a Mr. Bird feeder, but that's because it carries a sweet memory for me. If your loved one prefers puzzles, kitchen décor, or jewelry, you can find a heart-felt gift just for them in Seasons Gifts.

A little more on Mr. Bird from their website: Started on a kitchen counter, Mr. Bird is now one of the largest seed block and bird seed gift manufacturers in the nation.



"Birds are in Our Nature. We started Mr. Bird in 1996 when we owned an independent wild bird supply store in San Antonio, Texas. In helping our customers we could see a demand for a better way to feed birds; loose seed would often be wasted and suet would melt in our hot summers. Also, for some reason, birds in our area just wouldn't eat suet. So our first seed and nut blocks were designed to train birds to come to the suet feeders, once the birds were used to the feeder they could then be switched to suet. Imagine our surprise when no one wanted to make the change to suet. Our blocks looked good, felt good, smelled good, and the birds went crazy for them. Why mess with messy suet?"

### Visit our "Seasons Gifts Market Hut" at Winterfest

Experience the Town of Spencer German Christmas Marketplace. Soak up the sights and scents of Christmas as you meander through the market of sparkling lights, trees, and merry music. Wooden huts and pop-up tents are filled with Holiday gifts, crafts and festive food. This event is free to the public. More information at [www.spencerexperience.org](http://www.spencerexperience.org)

Dec. 3, 3-8PM | Dec. 4, 2-8PM | Dec. 10, 5-8PM | Dec. 11, 2-8PM

Shop with a Mission. Shop Seasons Gifts.

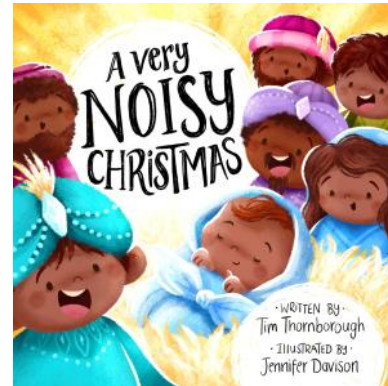


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## Give the *Perfect* Gift this Christmas

### Give a Christ-centered Christmas book to one of our Students

We want to make sure as many children as possible know the true story of Christmas. For \$5 you can purchase a book that will be given as a Christmas gift to one of our CDC or Kindergarten students. A collection jar will be available in the narthex throughout Advent.



### ELCA Good Gifts

Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provides 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. Visit [goodgifts.elca.org/](http://goodgifts.elca.org/).



### Shower Supplies for The Dwelling Mobile Shower

The Dwelling — an ELCA worshipping community 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.

GIFT Women's Ministry and Kingdom Kids are partnering with The Dwelling's shower ministry this Advent to collect much needed hygiene supplies. See our article on page 1 for more information



### 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!



## Annual Updates from Our Global Ministry Partners

St. John's has a rich tradition of outreach to brothers and sisters in need near and far. St. John's global ministry partners include Dar al Kalima University and Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the West Bank, Escuela Integrada and GRACES in Antigua, Guatemala, the Gumriak and Nyarweng Primary Schools and Sudan Rowan in Ruweng County South Sudan. In more recent years, St. John's presence has been revealed in the nation of Rwanda through Carter Woolly's work with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission.

Looking forward toward continued global partnerships in 2022, shepherds for each mission partner reveal their goals and resolutions for each of these ministries in the coming year. Please enjoy reading about each mission partner and how to support each ministry.

### Ministry in Bethlehem

#### Ministry History

St. John's partnership with Dar al Kalima University and Bright Stars of Bethlehem began in 2012/2013 after Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb spoke at a breakfast meeting at St. John's about his ministry initiatives as a Palestinian pastor. Dar al Kalima University's mission is to raise awareness and support to educate creative leaders in Palestine.

In 2019, St. John's also formed a covenant partnership with Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. We have agreed to:

- Accompany one another in our journey of faith.
- To pray with another and for one another.
- To empower one another as we do kingdom's work.
- To work in solidarity with one another in our struggle for mercy and justice.
- To learn from the other's experience and wisdom.
- To remind one another of the hope we have in Christ.

#### St. John's Support

- Organizing Holy Land pilgrimage tours
- Hosting art shows, culinary event and Israel/Palestine panel discussions

- Building awareness with U.S. senators and representatives on issues pertaining to Palestinian marginalization

- Coordinating joint Advent initiatives including Evangelical Lutheran Christmas church prayer service simulcasts, advent daily devotionals and service videos
- Providing financial support through the Benevolent Foundation



Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb - Opening Comments

#### Ministry Shepherd

Michael Connor -  
mjconnor1982@gmail.com ; cell 734 255 7230; home phone 704 633 0333



U.S. Training Team - Training Overview

#### New Year's Resolution

To establish more personal connections by developing relationships between St. John's members and Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church as well as Dar al Kalima University.

#### Ministry goals for 2022

- Bethlehem Senior Memory Care Training Program in Bethlehem - March 2022
- St. John's Holy Land Pilgrimage Tour - October 2022
- Connecting People - identify both St. John's and Christmas Lutheran church members interested in getting to know each other.

# The Escuela Integrada school in Guatemala

## Ministry History

Escuela Integrada began more than 17 years ago in Antigua, Guatemala, for children living in poverty. The name in English means “Integrated School for the Working Children.” Escuela Integrada started as a school to serve children who were working on the streets and to offer them accessible education. GRACES (Guatemalan Relief Assistance for Children’s Education Services) is a U.S.-based nonprofit based in Salisbury, North Carolina, that supports and funds Escuela Integrada.

## St. John’s Support

St. John’s has been partnering with the organization since 2011. The church has brought missions trips to volunteer with the organization over the years. In 2013, St. John’s Lutheran Church retained the project as a mission of the Church. St. John’s Lutheran Church worked to create a U.S.-based not for profit organization, GRACES, to fund the school. GRACES was then started in 2014. Additionally, the organization has received grants and funding from the church. Many members of the church also sponsor students through the organization and donate individually.

## Ministry Shepherds

- Krista Woolly, [Kwoolly65@gmail.com](mailto:Kwoolly65@gmail.com)
- Nancy Shirley, [nancy@wearegraces.org](mailto:nancy@wearegraces.org)
- Stan Jordan, [sjordan@healthcaremgmt.com](mailto:sjordan@healthcaremgmt.com)

## New Year's Resolution

The school will be moving into a new location at the end of this year! Additionally, GRACES will be fundraising for food for the school for all of 2022 with the goal to have those funds raised by the end of the year.

## Ministry Goals for 2022

GRACES would like to start hosting teams again in 2022. Escuela Integrada would also like to strengthen their English program in 2022 and continue to strengthen their technology program.





# South Sudan

## Ministry History

Sudan Rowan is a 501c3 founded in 2007 at St. John's. Sudan Rowan is an ecumenical Rowan County-based coalition that joins hands with South Sudanese partners in efforts to achieve peace and education. In 2010, Sudan Rowan began collaborating in a project called "Raising South Sudan" initiated by Charlotte-based 501c3 Mothering Across Continents. Under this project, former Lost Boys of Sudan have collaborated, sharing information and resources for schools and community development. Through their inspiration, and with anchor support from North Carolina schools, churches and foundations, nearly 1,000 children have attended primary schools in Ruweng State, South Sudan, and become models of "community schools" that have raised the education standards and aspirations in the region.

## St. John's Support

- In the past 10 years, St. John's, through its endowment fund, has provided nearly \$30,000 to Sudan Rowan for scholarships, computer equipment, meals, teacher training, and teacher salaries.
- Thousands of dollars in support have been donated by congregants through individual donations.

## Ministry Shepherd

Karen Puckett, karenmcgeepuckett@gmail.com; 704-798-6834

## New Year's Resolution

Bring more awareness of the struggles and aspirations experienced by our brothers and sisters in South Sudan and continue to support them in their educational endeavors.

## Ministry goals for 2022

- As many of the students from the Gumriak and Nyarweng schools have completed primary school, a need has arisen to open a secondary school in Ruweng County. Sudan Rowan and partner Mothering Across Continents are in the planning stages of raising funds to open and staff a high school.
- Sudan Rowan has developed relationships with students from Ngor Kur Mayol's home village of Aliap who are now living in the Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya and hopes to continue funding their educations until they graduate.
- Sudan Rowan hopes to raise funds to repair the Gumriak roof blown off during the rainy season.



- Sudan plans to resume work on well at Nyarweng -- on hold due to Covid disruption.

# Rwanda

## Ministry History

The Rwandan ministry is a partnership between St. John's and the parish church in Rukira. It stemmed from Carter Woolly's Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM) year when he lived and worked out of the parish church office. In 2019, St. John's raised \$12,870 to assist with the construction of modern structures with the intent of housing a primary school next to the church. This would grow the Lutheran church's visibility in the community and provide a much-needed source of income for the church. So far, the project has stalled due to government hesitancy and the COVID pandemic, but they have been able to use the buildings for the church's preschool. The Lutheran Church in Rwanda is a small, growing group focused primarily on former Rwandan refugees from Tanzania who returned to the country following the 1994 genocide.

## St. John's Support

St. John's provided \$12,870 towards the construction of buildings meant to house a primary school on adjacent to the church.

## Ministry Shepherd:

Carter Woolly, carter\_woolly@yahoo.com; (704) 754-0180

## New Year's Resolution

To continue to grow the relationship between the two churches. A formal greeting or a non-monetary gift would go a long way in increasing the bonds between the two congregations.

## Ministry goals for 2022

- Create more lasting relationships between St. John's and the Rukira parish beyond the Carter and Pastor Mulisa pipeline.
- Support the resumption of the YAGM program in Rwanda.
- Hope that the government approves the establishment of the secondary school.

**The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission** program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

Application deadline: Feb. 1, 2022 — <https://elca.org/yagm>



## How to Support Global Missions

Donations may be made to these ministries using the information cited below or through a donation to St. John's with the ministry name in the memo on online designation.

- Bethlehem: <https://brightstarsbethlehem.org/>
- Guatemala: Checks made to GRACES and mailed to PO Box 532, Salisbury, NC 28145 or visit [www.wearegraces.org](http://www.wearegraces.org)
- South Sudan: Checks made to Sudan Rowan and mailed to 576 Adrian Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
- Rwanda: St. John's - earmarked for Rwandan ministry
- ELCA Global Mission: [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission)
- Lutheran World Relief: <https://lwr.org/>





## Annual Campaign Update

Many thanks to those who have made a financial commitment to our 2022 Budget. A few statistics worth mentioning, as of November 23:

Total commitments received thus far	188
Commitments new to pledging	19
Those who have made a "step up"	79
Family units that have not yet pledged	235

TOTAL COMMITMENT AS OF NOV 23                      \$961,204

Of Note: The total pledge commitment by the end of December 2021 was \$1,055,568. If those who have not yet made a commitment this year pledge the same as last year, the total commitment will increase by \$215,045.

Many thanks for your generosity and faithfulness! Your response shows a solid commitment to the ministry of St. John's and an eagerness to make an impact in this community, congregation, and world. Thank you for that.

Please note that the Annual Campaign is not over! We hope to hear from those who have not yet made a pledge as soon as possible so that our Council can finalize a 2022 Budget.

Pledges can be made online ([stjohns-salisbury.org](http://stjohns-salisbury.org)), by submitting the pledge card you received by mail, or by contacting Ruth Ann Diehl in the church office. Thank you!

### Please Note

The congregational meeting to approve the 2022 budget has been delayed until Sunday, January 23 at 10:30 am in the Faith Center.

### St. John's Leadership

#### Congregation Council

2021 President .... Mike Edwards  
President-elect (2022) .... Larry Cartner  
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 –  
Mercy and Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly  
Congregational Life – Diane Poole  
Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl



Dear St. John's family,  
When you so generously and kindly  
celebrated my retirement as  
Associate Parish Musician, I was  
overwhelmed with gratitude.

*Thank  
you*

Thank you for a lovely and  
memorable day! Little did I know that just a few  
hours later I would learn just how kind and generous  
and thoughtful you are! Your loving care and  
abundant kindness have blessed Karl and me in my  
recovery with your calls, visits, cards, meals, rides to  
the doctor, and prayers. We thank God for you every  
day, and pray that God will continue to richly bless  
this wonderful church and her leaders!

With deepest gratitude,  
Rosemary and Karl Kinard

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Thank you to everyone at St. John's who sent me  
cards and meals, and for all the phone calls after my  
recent hip surgery.

Sherry Mason Brown

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Dear St. John's family,  
Our family is so grateful to you for the care and  
concern shown to us at the passing of my mother,  
Anne Loeblein. Your cards and prayers have meant  
so much during this time of healing.

With love,  
Carolyn & Tim Byrd  
Bob Loeblein & family

## 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.  
Thank you for your understanding and patience.

## Condolences

Bob Loeblein, Carolyn Byrd and family, on the passing  
of Anne Loeblein on Nov. 2.

Lindsay Triplett and family, on the passing of Shirley  
Smith on Oct. 28. Her funeral was held on Saturday,  
Nov. 6 at 10:30 am in the Chapel.

Jim Brown, who is brother in law to Eva and Ben  
White, passed on Saturday, Oct. 30. Prayers for peace  
for their family.

Jill and Wayne Nelson on the passing of Jill's mother,  
Gloria Samuelson on Nov. 21.

Dottie Bedford and Cindee Bridges upon the death of  
their daughter/sister, Suzanne Graham on Nov 17.

Tzena (Charles) Wicker, Lisa (Ray) Pope, Sheila  
(Raymond) Stowers, Lorna (Barry) Medinger, and  
Sabrina Rufty (Mark Lawyer) and family, on the  
passing of Jean Rufty on Nov. 16.

## Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians  
Celebrating December birthdays:*

Jane Barrier, Bill Blomer, Margaret Brady, Joanne Bullard,  
Mike Dunham, Margaret Ketner, Meeta Lampert, Nancy  
Lippard, Herman Peeler, Sarah Roberts, Peggy Russell,  
Bob Tannehill

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians  
Celebrating January birthdays:*

Nancy Austin, Jim Benton, Raymond Gandy, Nan Graeber,  
Carol Hair, Mary Lou Lentz, John Lipe, Bob Loeblein,  
Nancy Parrish, Carol Livengood, Eleanor Sifford, Barbara  
Wagoner

## 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.....Taylor Hutchins  
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Ricky Howsare

### Program Ministry

Adults.....Danny Hines  
Children.....Stacey Shafer  
Confirmation.....Laura Henrik  
Senior Adults .....Diane Poole  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) .....Teresa Stoner  
CDC Director ..... Paula Levianu

### Administrative Team

Business Manager .....Ruth Ann Diehl  
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross  
Accounting.....Mark Bias  
Communications Specialist ..... Angel Owens  
Writer .....Susan Shinn Turner  
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

\*11 am worship will be in the Faith Center, Sundays, Aug. 26  
and Sept. 5.

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)

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**Please deliver by December 1**

### Eagle's View Deadline

The February Eagle's View will be published in January.  
Please email stories and news to  
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by January 14!

### 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.*