



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

## Happy Anniversary!

### *2022 Marks the 275th Anniversary of St. John's*

By Susan Shinn Turner and Rhodes Woolly

It may be hard to believe, but 2022 is the 275th anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church! A committee has been formed to plan events for this exciting time in the life of the church. In the meantime, check out our opening event on page 5 and enjoy some of our historical highlights:

- 1747 — Lutherans in the Salisbury community begin worshipping together in their homes.
- Sept. 9, 1768 — John Lewis Beard deeds the "German Lutheran Church" land on which to build a church, the only one in Salisbury for 50 years. It was called "The Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in the town of Salisbury." This church building and its successor were built on North Lee Street at what is now the old Lutheran Cemetery, the main thoroughfare into town.
- Early 19th Century — A second building is built to house the Lutheran congregation and a smaller group of Episcopalians. The N.C. Synod is formed here in 1802. The church became informally known as "John's Church," perhaps in reference to the Rev. John Reck, who revitalized the congregation in the 1820s, and John Lewis Beard, who gave the land in 1768.
- 1856 — Railroad tracks are laid out through Salisbury and the first train passes through town.
- 1857 — The congregation moves to a larger location at North Main and Liberty streets, along the "new" main thoroughfare into town. The name "St. John's Lutheran Church" is recognized as the congregation's formal name. Salisbury was taking "its lead among the counties of the state in population, wealth, and agriculture." That same year, Thomas Southerly became the first Black member of St. John's. In 1872, the Synod conferred upon him "such ministerial powers as they may deem expedient," ostensibly to be a "missionary" to "labor in our territory among the colored people."
- 1861 — The Civil War and its aftermath decimate Salisbury and St. John's. No pastor served the church

between 1865-1870. Membership had dwindled to 40 and its building was in significant need of repair; nevertheless, the congregation hosted the 1867 NC Synod Convention.

- 1870 — The congregation embraced a challenge to fully support a new pastor — 30 year old Jacob Neiffer of Pennsylvania — to refurbish the church building, and to build a new wall around the Lutheran Cemetery. The congregation began to grow and flourish.
- 1872 — The first Christmas tree is recorded to have been placed in St. John's. "The tree itself, touching the high ceiling of the church, seemed to reach to heaven." Thomas Dosh was called in 1875 to succeed Neiffer as pastor. In 1877 he left St. John's to become president of Roanoke College in Virginia.
- 1883 — The cornerstone was laid for the new St. John's Church at Main and Liberty streets.
- 1891 — The church's first pipe organ was purchased for \$1200 and its first paid organist was hired.
- Jan. 2, 1927 — Following explosive growth, the congregation dedicates its new Sanctuary on Innes Street.

And that just gets us into the 20th century! Watch the Eagle's View each month for an article about the history of St. John's as well as upcoming events related to the 275th celebration.



*Artifacts dated from the 1770s found on the North Lee Street site of the first church, including a "host box" from 1772. Quotes are from Martha Agner's history of St. John's.*

# Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

On January 23, members of St. John's extended calls to two outstanding pastors in the Lutheran church: Lori Carter of Winston-Salem and James Demmel, who currently serves in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania.

I have to admit, I'm really excited to welcome these two new colleagues to our ministry team!

Pastor Demmel will be working with our youth and helping to develop a new outreach plan for the congregation. He heads up our newly developed NextGen Team, which includes Stacey Shafer (children's minister) and Ricky Howsare (contemporary worship). They'll be working together to bring dynamic and unified ministry to our kids and students, birth through 12th grade.



As we emerge from this two-year pandemic, our hope is that parents and students will get excited about youth ministry again. There's no doubt in my mind that our students are craving community — and what better investment than in healthy Christian community that teaches love for God and love for others.

So here's a challenge to our parents: Let's reconnect and reengage with youth ministry. I know it made a huge impact on my own kids. I'm certain it will for you, too ... especially as we welcome Pastor Demmel into the mix!

Pastor Carter is no stranger to parish ministry, having served in pastoral care for over 25 years in Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran congregations. She will oversee that ministry at St. John's, along with managing our faith formation ministry for adults. She'll work alongside Diane Poole and Lauren Stephenson of our counseling ministry.

A special treat is that Lori will be ordained as a *Lutheran* pastor on Saturday, Feb. 26, 3:00 pm at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, where she has served the last four years. You are most welcome to attend!



Both Lori and James will finish up work at their respective congregations in late February. After a few weeks of transition, they'll both begin their new calls at St. John's on Sunday, March 13. What a special day that will be.

Thank you so much for your partnership in the Gospel. I can't help but to think a giant wave of opportunity is forming as we welcome new pastors, bring to conclusion our G2G project, emerge from Covid, and enter into Spring. When I was a kid at the beach, I'd wait for hours for that *perfect* wave to form and wouldn't have dared miss it.

Let's be sure to catch this wave together ... and have lots of fun doing it!

Our very best to you.

+Pastor Rhodes

**Don't let  
the cold  
keep you  
away!**

*February ministry  
opportunities for  
cold weather fans.*



**February 13**

**SOUPER Bowl Sunday!**

*Donate a bowl of soup to our friends at Rowan  
Helping Ministries (dollar bills accepted)*

**February 20**

**Wear an old winter coat.  
Give an old winter coat!**

*Hand warmers & hot chocolate will be provided*

**February 27**

**Wrap up in your favorite  
blanket Sunday!**

*(and then give it away if you'd like)*

*We're sorry about the lack of heat in our sanctuary, but join  
us on Sundays and let the Holy Spirit warm you right up!*

# Bringing “The Talk” To Salisbury

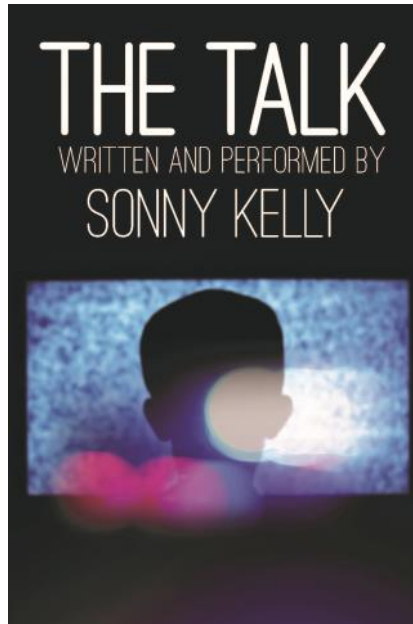
*One Man Play Performed in the Faith Center on Feb. 25*

By Karen Puckett

We're in a most unusual time in our country's history, facing a variety of stress points that make it difficult to have civil conversations. As a country we're polarized, frustrated, and it seems we've turned everything into a political chess match. Although St. John's is an established, historically white church, it resides in a diverse community, placing the church in a unique position to reach out to people of many different backgrounds and to provide opportunities for safe and honest conversation.

Utilizing the arts as a conduit for human connections, St. John's Conversations that Matter team is partnering with representatives from the Covenant Community Connection, Lee Street Theatre, The Reach Church and Salisbury High School to bring Dr. Sonny Kelly's play, “The Talk” to Salisbury. This is a community show that creates a forum where the struggles of African Americans are made public for white audiences while the lives of white audiences are affirmed and reflected back. This effort seeks to invite dialog about race and provide an opportunity for various groups to create actionable solutions to racial injustice and misunderstandings.

St. John's was brought on board by a former Livingstone theatre professor and member of The Reach Church. Principal Marvin Moore of Salisbury High School and Lee Street Theatre joined the effort when the group was seeking venue spaces.



Performances will take place at 7:30pm on Thursday, February 24 at Salisbury High School, Friday, February 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church's Faith Center, and Saturday, February 26 at the Lee Street Theatre. Dialogue workshops for students will take place at Salisbury High School February 24-25 and an ecumenical pastors' gathering will be led by Dr. Kelly at The Reach Church on February 26 at 10am

Dr. Sonny Kelly is a playwright, actor, and community dialog facilitator. A Stanford and UNC-Chapel Hill grad, he offers "Talking the Talk" and "Walking the Talk" workshops for communities and congregations. To learn more about Dr. Kelly, please visit [sonnykelly.com](http://sonnykelly.com).

Organizations providing funding for “The Talk” include St. John's Endowment Fund, Salisbury Community Foundation, and the Rowan Arts Council.





## This Month with Kingdom Kids

Kingdom Kids is our children's ministry program at St. John's. First Look is for our Kingdom Kids birth to 4 years old, while 252 Kids is for our K-5th graders.

Each age is invited to participate in our Milestones Ministry, which celebrates special moments in your child's faith journey and invites them into a deeper exploration of that milestone. 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.

### Baptism workshop, Feb 27, 6:00 pm

Pastor Rhodes will be leading an hour-long Baptism Workshop in the Ark. The workshop is for parents and for older children who are preparing for baptism. Contact Stacey for more information.

### 1st Communion Classes to Begin Soon

If your 3rd-5th grader is ready to participate in 1st communion, please let Stacey know as soon as possible. Normally held in February, we have decided to wait this year until our new pastors arrive in March. Be on the lookout for an exact date for the classes, although students will receive their First Communion during worship on Maundy Thursday, April 14.

### A Treat for our 4th & 5th graders!

Sunday school will be lead by Mr. Mitch on February 13th & 27th. For those who have not been taught by Mr. Mitch (pre-covid), you are in for a treat! He teaches in a fun and candy filled kind of way! Mark your calendars as he is excited to be back twice a month.

*\*Please encourage your children to bring their bibles to church with them. Our Sunday school leaders will ask that they use them during their time together.*

### Nursery workers and volunteers needed!

Nursery workers and volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact Stacey.

#### Any questions?

Contact our Children's minister, Stacey Shafer  
[stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org).



### This month's First Look Theme (Birth to 4)

Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.

Jesus loves everyone, and we can love everyone like Jesus—that is what we want preschoolers to know. And, there's no better time in our world for children to hear this powerful truth. So, grab a party hat and a handful of confetti and let's get the party started!

Memory Verse:

“DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.” 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14, NIV



### This month's 252 Kids Theme (K–5th grade)

Look around: there are always chances to care for the people in your neighborhood. This month our 252 Kids learn that compassion starts with caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Memory Verse:

“THE LORD HAS SHOWN YOU WHAT IS GOOD. HE HAS TOLD YOU WHAT HE REQUIRES OF YOU. YOU MUST ACT WITH JUSTICE. YOU MUST LOVE TO SHOW MERCY. AND YOU MUST BE HUMBLE AS YOU LIVE IN THE SIGHT OF YOUR GOD.” MICAH 6:8, NIRV

# Youth Ministry

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**February 6th** - 5:30-8:00pm - God at the Movies  
We will be watching "Hidden Figures" (rated PG) to celebrate Black History Month. Afterwards we will discuss God's presence in the movie.

**February 13** - SUPER BOWL NIGHT - **NO YOUTH**

**February 20** - 5:30-7:00pm - Youth Group in the Pit

**February 27** - 5:30-7:00pm - Youth Night. Location TBA



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## Our 275th Kick-Off!

*Friday, March 4, 6-8 pm*

The 275th Anniversary Team has scheduled our kick-off event on Friday evening, March 4 in the Faith Center.

The event will highlight our German heritage, serving up a smorgasbord of yummy German treats like German meat balls, macaroons, rum balls, smoked trout, beer brat, beer radishes, Bavarian cheeses, and Bee Sting cake.

Mid-way through the evening, Dr. Gary Freeze will offer a presentation about the church's history, the first of several he'll provide during this anniversary year. Freeze is a retired history professor from Catawba who specializes in NC history.

Join us on March 4 as we celebrate this milestone anniversary of St. John's, "Salisbury's First Church."



*The Setzer cabin at the Horizon Center in Salisbury (above) is dated to the same era as St. John's first house of worship in the 1760s.*



# Senior Seasons Academy is Back!

## Tuesdays in February



**The Apostle's Creed** from 10-11:30 am, taught by Pastor Rhodes Woolly

Week 1 — background, history, and importance of creeds

Week 2 — the 1st Article of the Creed: God as creator

Week 3 — the 2nd Article of the Creed: the essential nature of Jesus

Week 4 — the 3rd Article of the Creed: the essential nature of the church

### Afternoon speakers:

**February 1:** Marjorie J. Brown, Attorney specializing in Elder Law & Estate Planning, will speak on elder law updates and their effects on finances and estate planning.

**February 8:** Lynn Denker, Health Ministry Co-Chair, who will speak about plans for the new Faith, Activity, and Nutrition Program that the Health Ministry Team will roll out later this year. Also, she will share about the new walking map, encompassing some of the Bell Tower Park, that has been developed.

**February 15:** Dennis Rogers and JoDella Sickles, who are experts in the field of older adult insurance benefits and how to navigate the world of insurance.

**February 22:** Kara K. Lemon, MSW, LCSW, CDP, of the NC Geriatric Adult Mental Health Specialty Team, will speak on Mental Health 101, which looks at mental health vs mental illness and identifies signs that someone needs support. Her talk will touch on a couple diagnoses and treatment. All of this is in light of the pandemic.

Sign up today online or email [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org).

The cost is \$12 to cover the cost of honorariums for speakers.

Bring your own lunch. Water, coffee, and tea will be provided.

### Ways to keep your mind sharp:

- Establish a regular exercise routine.
- Read and write frequently.
- Maintain a healthy diet.  
Have good posture.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Play games, draw, and/or listen to music.
- Learn something new.
- Stay social.

Did you know that our senior adult activities are good for you because they provide many of the benefits listed above?! An AARP survey of people over 40 found that those who were more active socially and used their minds in an active way actually improved their memory scores.

*Conclusion: Participating in Senior Academy improves your brain power!!!!*



*Our Senior Seasons group enjoyed a 4 day visit to Colonial Williamsburg in December. The restored village was decked out in Christmas décor, while actors in period dress provided a glimpse into colonial Christmas traditions.*

# Lenten Season Project 2022

*Our Goal: 1 Care Kit for each of our 275 years!*

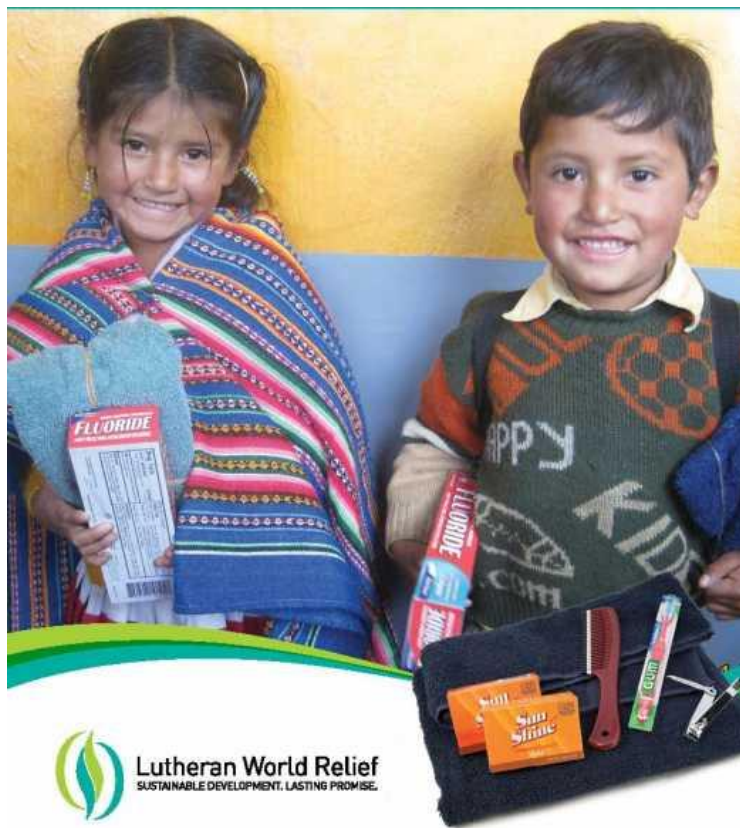
Again this year, our congregation will be providing Personal Care Kits to some of the neediest people in the world. A project of Lutheran World Relief, we join congregations around the country in providing much-needed supplies to those living in extreme poverty.

You can help! 5 items are needed for each care kit. Because shipping regulations are so stringent, we're asking members to buy individual items and bring them to the designated collection area in Peeler Hall between March 2 and April 14.

Please be precise about the size requirements listed below. And thanks so much for your partnership!

### Contents for Personal Care Kits

Towel	Light-weight bath-size between <u>20"x40"</u> & <u>52"x27."</u> LWR will not accept larger towels.
Toothbrush	Individual in its own packaging. No multiples.
Comb	WIDE toothed comb with a handle.
Fingernail clippers	One regular size pair of clippers taken out of its packaging.
Soap	Two 4 oz. bars.



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.

Want to help with our Packing Party?

**Contact Diane Poole**

[diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org)

## Are you ready to be a FAN

### *Our new Faith, Activity, and Nutrition Program Launches*

By Susan Shinn Turner

Are you ready to be a FAN in 2022?

St. John's is introducing the Faith, Activity, and Nutrition Program, a free program from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina.

"It is a faith-based, church-based program," says Lynn Denker, a retired nurse who serves as committee coordinator. Other members of the FAN team include Ann Hatchett, a nurse who continues to work part-time; Diane Poole, who leads the Senior Seasons ministry; and Stacey Shafer, children's ministry. The FAN program is part of St. John's Healthcare Ministry.

The program and materials are provided at no cost to congregations, Lynn says. "We just communicate our plan to the congregation, and we'll be reviewed at the end of the year."

"I hope this program will help raise awareness of more healthy food choices for our members and staying active as families, improving their overall health and quality of life," Ann says.

The committee will tailor the program specifically for St. John's members.

The FAN goals are:

1. Become physically active at a moderate intensity level for 150 minutes per week.
2. Eat about two cups of fruit and at least three cups of vegetables each day.
3. Eat whole grain foods.
4. Eat less fat.
5. Eat less sodium.



Members will also receive a FAN walking log to track their steps. The goal should be to eventually get to 8,000 to 10,000 steps a day.

To that end, the committee has developed a downtown walking map, which will be unveiled when the sign is unveiled, hopefully by the end of January or early February. Lynn received permits from both the city and the Historic Salisbury Foundation to display the sign. It will be placed in front of the church and include scan codes that walkers can use to learn about historic buildings on their routes. The routes range from .35 to 1.5 miles.

"We're not asking to move mountains here," Lynn says. "We're just about tiny steps."



## ***“With a Voice of Singing!”***

There’s a place for you in music ministry this Winter

As worshipers, we are not spectators but full participants, employing all our human senses: *seeing* colors and movements all around us; *hearing* voices raised in song; *tasting* the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and moving our bodies to the rhythm of these traditions whether we’re standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing, or tracing the sign of the cross at the name of the Trinity and to remember our baptism! In so many ways *the congregation’s singing voice is its principal musical instrument!*

We too extend the opportunity of leading the congregation and the community in worship, song and praise through our choral and instrumental ensembles - and we invite you to consider (if you aren’t already involved) being one of those voices. If you are interested in any of the following please contact Rob Durocher, Minister of Worship and the Arts at [rob@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:rob@stjohns-salisbury.org)

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearses each Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room in preparation to lead each 11:00 am worship service and other special services and events.

The **CONTEMPORARY MUSICIANS TEAM** that leads our 9:27 worship in the Faith Center rehearses each Thursday evening at 6:00 pm in the Faith Center. Singers and instrumentalists are encouraged to consider this ministry. Please contact Ricky Howsare, Contemporary Worship Leader at [ricky@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:ricky@stjohns-salisbury.org)

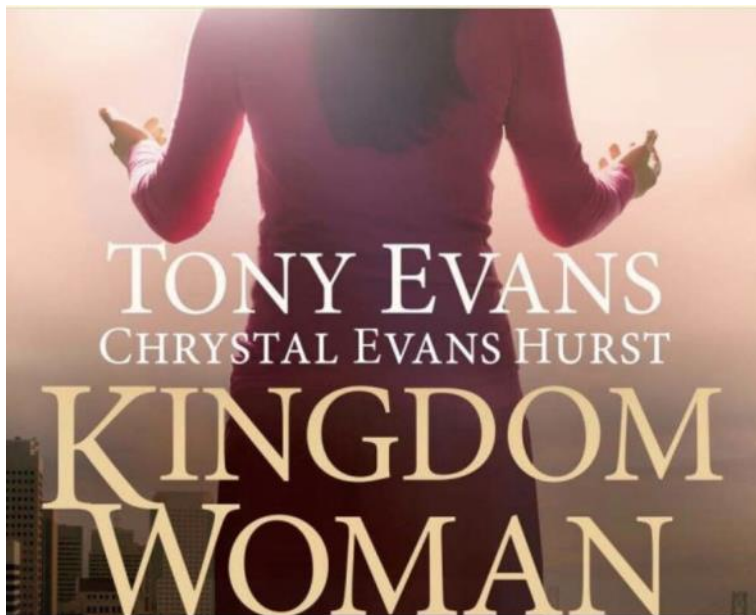
**ST. JOHN’S MEN’S CHORUS** rehearses each Sunday at 4:00 pm in the Choir Room and prepares two special concerts per year at Christmas and in mid-Spring. Middle School – Adult males voices are welcomed! (Contact is Rob Durocher)

**ST. JOHN’S WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE** rehearses each 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month in the Choir Room and is open to Middle School – Adult female voices. (Contact is Rob Durocher)

**THE LUTHER RINGERS** is under the direction of Kimberly Lentz ([lentzke@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lentzke@carolina.rr.com)). Seven octaves of Malmark Hand Bells and Choir Chimes are used and distributed amongst it ringers and ringing is moderate – advanced. Rehearsals are at 7:00 pm each Monday in the ringing loft of the main sanctuary and rehearsals will begin shortly for the calendar year 2022.



1947 — The St. John’s sanctuary was completely renovated in 1947 in honor of its 200th anniversary. Notice the new altar, the altar triptych, and painted ceilings. The raised pulpit would be added later.



### Mom's Group Book Study

Wednesdays @ 7 pm via Zoom starting Feb. 9

In *Kingdom Woman*, Tony Evans and his daughter, Chrystal Evans Hurst, remind women of their calling from God to be free, delivered, healed, and to have hope. The authors bring insight that encourages women to correct distorted perceptions and understand who they really are in Christ—never settling for less when connected with the One who gives them hope. All believers are covered by God's covenant with Abraham. Evans and Hurst want women to know these rights and confidently claim and live by them. The new covenant offers more than a life of mediocrity. A kingdom woman is called and empowered to live a life of victory through Christ!

If you are interested in joining please contact [stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org).



### GIFT Women's Retreat to BonClarken *Postponed*

Because of the uncertainties surrounding Covid, the GIFT Women's Ministry Team has decided to postpone this year's Women's Retreat, originally scheduled for March.

Exact plans have not yet been developed, but be on the look-out for more information.

*A reminder that the **Women's Bible Study** meets on zoom every Tuesday morning at 8:00 am. Contact the church office to receive the link and/or be added to the group email.*

The flyer features a dark blue header with the text "Elizabeth Shulman author, guest speaker" above a circular portrait of a woman with short brown hair. To the right, the title "FINDING SANCTUARY" is written in large, bold, blue letters, followed by the subtitle "practical tools to help with the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of dementia caregiving". Below the portrait, three red icons (star, clock, and phone) precede the text "all are invited sign up; wear face masks", "20 February, 2022 2 pm - 4 pm", and "704-636-3121". A small image of the book cover is shown next to a red "SIGN UP" button. At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the website "www.fumcsalisbury.org".

Elizabeth Shulman  
author, guest speaker

# FINDING SANCTUARY

practical tools to help with the  
physical, emotional and  
spiritual challenges of  
dementia caregiving

**all are invited**  
sign up; wear face masks

**20 February, 2022**  
2 pm - 4 pm

**704-636-3121**

**SIGN UP**

[www.fumcsalisbury.org](http://www.fumcsalisbury.org)

You & your people are invited to join us on Sunday, February 20, 2 - 4 pm, for a workshop with author Dr. Elizabeth Shulman who will be presenting, "Finding Sanctuary: practical tools to help with the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges of dementia caregiving." During this interactive presentation, participants will have the opportunity look at their current needs through the lens of hope and come away with approaches and techniques to deal with the daily challenges of caregiving. A special section will be devoted to friends of caregivers who want to learn how to better support their caregiving friends.

Click below to sign up, or call the church office (704-636-3121).  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044eacae22a1fb6-finding>

About the author: Elizabeth Shulman, D.Min. has over 30 years of experience as a pastor, university researcher and hospice chaplain. She has written for Guideposts' *Strength and Grace* and enjoys writing music in her free time. For more information about her and her work, please visit her website, [www.elizabethshulman.com](http://www.elizabethshulman.com).

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### North Carolina Reads

*One Year. Five Books. Read Together.*

North Carolina Reads is a statewide book club that in 2022 will read through 5 books "that explore issues of racial, social and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina." The program is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

To learn more and/or to participate, visit their website at [nchumanities.org/program/north-carolina-reads/](http://nchumanities.org/program/north-carolina-reads/). A free event that is offered each month (February-June) is an online book and panel discussion hosted by North Carolina Humanities.



# Making Space and Ministry more Accessible

By Susan Shinn Turner

Accessibility. You don't think about it until you need it.

Fortunately, the congregation of St. John's has thought a lot about accessibility, and what it means to its parishioners and guests.

"The Gospel is for all," says Pastor Rhodes, "but we have to be deliberate about actually making it *available* to all. That's not as easy as you might think."

The most noticeable example is the sanctuary **elevator**, which was installed in the 1960s. For many years, there have been hearing devices at the 11 am service. For the 9:27 service, voice-to-text software was purchased so that the hearing impaired can read the sermon on their phones in real time.

We are also exploring the addition of sign language once/month.

The design of Phase 1 of G2G makes the entire building and the education building handicapped accessible, according to Mike Agee, G2G building chair.

"We added handicap restrooms outside of the chapel and in Peeler Hall, and the Faith Center was designed to have no steps coming in on both levels. In the new contemporary worship space, we ordered some chairs with arms to members or guests who may need them to stand."

He's had many comments from folks who are appreciative of the drive-through canopy and elevator at the lower-level entrance to Peeler Hall.

As part of our G2G Phase 2 project, the Sanctuary received a new sound system., which included a significant upgrade to our assisted hearing system. A particularly interesting feature is that the sound system will connect directly to hearing aids, if they are equipped with blue tooth technology. All you have

to do is download an app and connect through your phone. No additional devices are needed.

And there's more.

"When we replaced the carpet in the Sanctuary, we added two pews down front with much wider space to accommodate those who have mobility issues," Mike says. Additionally, there are no panels on the sides of these pews to assist with ease of seating.

A church member has given a \$50,000 challenge grant to add two handicap restrooms off the Sanctuary. They are located just outside the chancel area, one on each side.

"We're working hard to get these restrooms completed," Mike says. "We're close to having the complete funding, but we're not quite there yet."

"Perhaps the most obvious of all is our online service," adds Pastor Rhodes. "Covid has been hard, but it's given us a chance to fine-tune our online experience for worshippers and for those who'd like to engage with St. John's in other ways, including a variety of independent studies for adult learners."

"It's hard to wrap your head around sometimes, but these days our largest audience is our online audience — by a long shot. The exciting thing is that we're able to make our ministry even more accessible to folks who otherwise wouldn't have access to it."

Which is precisely what we're called to do — to make the Gospel accessible "to all the ends of the earth" (Matthew 28).

"Whatever barriers we can remove, let's remove!"

If you'd like more details on any of these services offered, please do not hesitate to contact the church office.

# A Pleasant, Sweet Surprise

## *Planned Giving at St. John's*

By Susan Shinn Turner

Estate gifts are gifts that keep on giving, Tom Childress says.

Tom, who worked in development and fundraising for many years, says the church is a wonderful organization to remember in your estate planning. He served a five-year term on the Benevolent Foundation board, the last year as its chair.

An estate gift — also known as planned giving — is designed to benefit the gifted organization after the donor's death.

Sometimes planned gifts fly under the radar, Childress say. For example, the late Paul and Lois Carter left a planned gift for the St. John's Fund for the Future, part of the Benevolent Foundation. Interest from the Fund for the Future provides resources for congregational ministries, including phase 2 of the G2G project.

The Carter's three children didn't even know about the gift.

"They were very generous people and they LOVED their church," daughter Carol McNeely says. "This is a pleasant, sweet surprise."

She says she is not surprised, however, by her parents' approach to giving. "They were not braggers about where they gave and the organizations they supported."

For Dr. Norman Sloop, making a planned gift to St. John's was an easy decision.

"I have been blessed enough that I have enough to give away," says Sloop, 92. "I've made gifts to Catawba College and Bowman Gray School of Medicine to help with tuition. I wanted to give to St. John's, too, because it was just a good place to put my money."



*The late Paul and Lois Carter*

Sloop explains that you can leave money several ways. He has chosen to bequeath money to St. John's in his general will. The church is also a designated beneficiary for his IRA, and will receive a percentage of that.

Childress adds that you can make an endowed gift for a restricted area which then becomes a part of the Benevolent Foundation.

"You never invade the principal, using only the interest," he says. "The donor knows exactly where the money went."

Childress says that with planned gifts, "Sometimes they notify the church in advance and sometimes they don't. That usually means they didn't want thanks for acknowledgement. You have to honor that."

Which was the case with the Carters.

A similar surprise came in 2012 when the congregation was notified that the late Bob and Lois Pruesner had designated a gift that, when invested in the Benevolent Foundation, would provide an annual gift that matched their annual pledge.

"It's a gift that keeps on giving," says Ruth Ann Diehl, business manager. "Forever."

Sloop says that when planning a gift, you've got to look at what your assets are and what you care about the most.

"Mary and I had no children, so it was not a difficult decision," he says. Besides, "these organizations have meant the world to us. I feel blessed to help support them long after my death."

Childress encourages members to consult their attorney or financial advisor when making planned gifts.

# Welcome New Members!

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“Greetings from **Mark and Roxanne Darnell**! We moved to Salisbury from Minnesota in November of 2018 in order to be closer to our family, specifically our 11-year-old grandson! We both retired from Law Enforcement, Mark after serving for over 38 years as a Deputy, and Roxanne after 10 years in a civilian capacity. In Minnesota, we owned a horse boarding business and were involved with local equine and 4H activities for many, many years. We have been actively involved with Police K9 operations since 1997 and still participate nationally and with NC’s regional units. “



**David Schouweiler** is a science teacher at Rowan County Early College where he met his wonderful wife Marian. Originally from Michigan, David moved to North Carolina in 2011 and the Salisbury area in 2019. He loves playing in the 9:27 praise band, great conversations, cheering for University of Michigan sports, and all things nerdy.



**Philip and Doreen May** have been married for 49 years. Doreen May is from the Laguna Pueblo Indian Tribe. She was born and raised Catholic and in her Pueblo tribal traditions on the Laguna Reservation in the high desert west of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She retired in 2010 after 40 years as a Dental Assistant/Hygienist clinician and Supervisor for the U.S. Public Health Service, Division of Indian Health. Phil is from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and a Methodist prior to joining St. John’s. He is a 1969 graduate of Catawba College, and is currently completing his 4<sup>th</sup> decade as a professor and Public Health professional. He worked for 33 years at the University of New Mexico, and since 2011 has served as a Research Professor at the UNC Nutrition Research Institute in Kannapolis.



“We are **Randy and Lea Anne Thomas**. We have three children: Grace (20), Philip (16), and Hope (12). We have lived in China Grove for over 20 years. We enjoy traveling, family adventures, sports, music, and game nights. Randy is a senior estimator for a paving/grading contractor and Lea Anne is a retired principal who is now serving as a childcare center director. We are excited to be members of St. John’s!”



**David and Yvonne McGaha** moved to Trinity Oaks from Florida in 2020. David owned a men's clothing store and Yvonne worked in retail, arts/music, and as a medical assistant. They both enjoy being around people and share an interest in traveling and volunteering. David enjoys exercising, finance, golf, and walking. Yvonne's hobbies include arts and crafts, music, painting, and shopping.

**Jane Patterson** is a long-time Lutheran and resident of China Grove. She is a retired teacher and a part-time student support specialist with Communities in Schools. In her spare time, she loves to play guitar, run, and work out, but her real passion is in helping kids improve their reading skills.



**Ricky and Kimberly Howsare** are thrilled to be able to call themselves part of the family here at St. John's! They recently moved to North Carolina from Pennsylvania. Kimberly is currently working at the preschool at First Presbyterian across from St. John's and Ricky, as most of you know, has been serving as the Contemporary Worship Leader for the 9:27 service at St. John's. At home, they enjoy time with their two dogs, three cats, two lovebirds, and fish. Ricky and Kimberly are excited for their new chapter at St. John's.

## A Gift with a Story: 12 Stone Art

By Angel Owens

We all have love languages— how we best recognize and receive love and how we most naturally share love. Mine is NOT gift giving. I love giving a good gift, especially when it isn't for a particular occasion. I'm just not particularly good at it.

That's why I love learning and sharing the stories behind gifts. By connecting the gift to a specific history, story, or ministry, I can become a more thoughtful gift giver. I can begin to think, "I know she's having a hard time, and she might appreciate this," and not just the gift itself, but the story.

Gifts are one way that we can bring comfort and encouragement to those we love. What better way than by sharing God's word.

Quarried in the mountains east of the ancient city of Ephesus, these marble stones are handcrafted and distressed by artisans here in the United States.

If Ephesus sounds familiar, that's because it has biblical and evangelical significance. "Ephesus was the most important city in western Asia Minor (now Turkey). It had a harbor that



at that time opened into the Cayster River (see map, p. 2429), which in turn emptied into the Aegean Sea (see map, p. 2599). Because it was also at an intersection of major trade routes, Ephesus became a commercial center. It boasted a pagan temple dedicated to the Roman goddess Diana (Greek Artemis); cf. Ac 19:23-31. Paul made Ephesus a center for evangelism for about three years (see note on Ac 19:10)." ([www.biblestudytools.com/ephesians/](http://www.biblestudytools.com/ephesians/))

I love the idea of sharing God's word a literal piece of the land where evangelism took root in the early church— from a history that proclaimed that the gospel, God's grace, and peace are for everybody.

The name 12 Stones is inspired by how Joshua used *twelve stones* as a memorial of God's love and faithfulness in Joshua 4:1-9. But the ministry of 12 Stones Art goes beyond sharing encouraging bible quotes. Ten percent of gross sales go towards well-drilling to provide clean water in developing countries and to share the tangible love of Jesus through Iris Global and Compassion International. 12 Stone Art also donates the stone that they are unable to use to Habitat for Humanity. ([twelvestoneart.com](http://twelvestoneart.com)).

# Angel Owens Begins New Position With NC Synod

By Susan Shinn Turner

St. John's very own Angel has flown away — but don't worry, she hasn't gone far.

Angel Owens, St. John's communications specialist since August 2017, will become associate director of communications and digital strategist at the North Carolina Synod on Jan. 18.

"I will be managing the web and social media presence, as well as, offering communications support" she says.

Angel's degree is in communication and religion from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She says she loves research and had interest in possibly working with a non-profit, but wasn't sure what career path she might take.

"I found the job at St. John's on Indeed.com," she says. "An opportunity to use two seemingly unrelated degrees, God definitely had a hand in preparing the way."

Angel says the experience she's gained at St. John's has been invaluable. "I've learned a lot. It's been an honor to be part of the team on projects like the Palestinian ministry, Conversations that Matter events, and Gator Reading. I find joy in storytelling, community engagement, and advocacy. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue this kind of digital ministry with the Synod."

During her time at St. John's, Angel worked closely with programming and worship staff, Taylor Hutchins, Joy Chaffin and her successor Deborah Cross, and Pastor Rhodes.

Angel says, "The last couple of years have been an incredible learning experience in terms of digital communication." The church had already been streaming services and completed a total redesign on the website before the pandemic happened, she continues.



Since then, there's been the creation of a digital campus, and an online ministry.

"It's a ministry in itself," Angel says. "Digital media makes it easier to meet people where they are. It's also an incredible avenue for connecting with people and organizations, both locally and globally. Being part of a community is important for us and it's important for the world."

Angel will be working directly with Catherine Fink, communications director for the Synod.

"I'm excited for Angel to join our Synod staff," Catherine says. "She brings both digital media expertise and a passion for teamwork."

Angel hopes to have as good a working relationship with the bishop as she does with Pastor Rhodes.

"It's been a joy to work with Pastor Rhodes," Angel says. "It's been a great experience to work with people who are both incredibly passionate and good at what they do. St. John's has built up a talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers."

"What a blessing Angel has been," says Pastor Rhodes. "We brought her on board because of her talent. What we quickly discovered is her passion for ministry and deep-rooted sense of faith. What a gift she is to those around her."

Angel plans to stay in touch with Ruth Ann Diehl, Brenda Munday, Joy and Deborah.

"As a working woman, I have learned a lot from them. They demonstrated humility and encouraged confidence," she says of these women. "I've grown a lot personally and professionally."

## Update from Guatemala



By Autumns Jones  
GRACES Director of Communications

### Back to school in Guatemala

The students at Escuela Integrada are off and running in a new school year! Remote classes began on January 17 and will continue online through March. In March, the Guatemalan government and the local leadership will reassess the COVID-19 situation to determine if the students can return to in-person learning. Thanks to contributions from

people like you, all students will have access to a tablet to do their schoolwork from home. The tablets can access the internet using cell phone data where WiFi is not available. We hope to provide an update in March about the possibility of returning to in-person learning for the second quarter.

### 52,000 Meals for Escuela Integrada!

Thanks to the many, many generous contributions to our year-end campaign, we are able to provide 52,000 meals for the students at Escuela Integrada in 2022. We met our goal of raising \$32,500, which was automatically doubled to equal \$65,000. Then, we raised an additional \$2,470, all of which goes to support the Meal Program at Escuela Integrada.

It remains one of GRACES' top priorities that the children at Escuela Integrada have the best chances to succeed in their studies—which begins with a full belly. As we've seen over many years of documented evidence, providing food for the children at Escuela Integrada has a significant impact on their ability to focus, study and learn.

With the continuation of at-home learning, the meal support funds from the year-end campaign will be used to provide take-home food rations for the children. When the students return to the school building, meals will be provided as part of the normal school day.



### Welcome GRACES babies!

GRACES' Executive Director, Hannah Nadeau Girón and her husband, Frosty, welcomed Jade Noé on Monday, Dec. 27, and GRACES Sponsorship Coordinator Lucas Hertzberg and his wife, Fabiola, welcomed Alanah Valeria on Thursday, Jan. 6.

Both babies and families are doing well! Please keep them in your prayers.





## **“Hope for Today” Individual Counseling Available at St. John’s**

Our Counseling Ministry is led by Lauren Stephenson, M.S., LMHCA, NCC. Appointments are available to individuals both within and outside of the St. John’s community. Each appointment is 50 min in length and will be held at St. John’s in the Prayer Room. Appointments can be scheduled by either contacting Deborah in the church office or visiting our Hope for Today scheduling page: <https://stjohns-counseling.youcanbook.me/>

In order to ensure the long-term availability of this ministry, we ask that individuals give a \$20 contribution for each individual appointment that they attend, as they are able. This contribution can be made either in person or online via St. John’s online donation page. If gifting online, please check the box marked “other” and type “counseling ministry” in the space indicated.

## **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>

## **St. John’s Leadership**

### **Congregation Council**

2022 President .... Larry Cartner

Vice President .... Rosalind Hines

Secretary .... David Phillips

Treasurer .... Tommy Page

Financial Secretary...Cory Gebhardt

Personnel Secretary ... Jeanie Moore

### *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

### *Term Expires 2024*

Jay Dees

Carol Everhart

Jenny Ryerson

David Phillips

Marian Schouweiler

### *Youth Members*

Millie Wymbs and Kirstyn Mason

### *Benevolent Foundation Trustees*

Chris Agner, Chair

Margaret Kluttz

John Denker

Lori Yang

Brad Brady

## **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

We wish to thank all who have shown their sympathy to us for the death of my granddaughter, Maggie Safrit Smale. Thank you so much for all the cards, telephone calls, prayers, and personal contacts. St. John's has always been close to its congregation and we appreciate everyone's interest.

*Thank  
you*

Thank you again, Bill and Linda Safrit

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Our family sends its love and thanks to the congregation for its prayers, love and outpouring of support to us as we grieve the loss of our dear wife, mother and grandmother Ann. So many hugs, calls, cards and gifts given in memory and honor of Ann! We are ever grateful to all and feel so blessed to be part of this marvelous Christ-centered, loving community.

Carl Sachtleben  
*Carl served as St. John's Senior Pastor from 1992-2007.*

## 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

Linda Glover and her daughters, Samantha, Julie, and Lisa, on the passing of Bob Glover on January 23. His funeral was at St. John's on January 28.

Cora Shinn, Susan Turner, and family, on the passing of Louise McKee, older sister of Cora Shinn, on January 23.

Carol Hair and family, on the passing of her sister, Phyllis Myers, on Jan. 21.

Mary Willis Page and family, on the passing of Mary's father, Dr. Marvin Jones, due to a car accident on January 10. Marvin was a member of St. John's prior to moving out to Arizona.

## Congratulations

On the birth of Charles Edmund "Charlie" Ritchie born on Jan. 19. Parents are Carl and Susie Ritchie, grandparents are Cliff and Amy Ritchie; Ralph and Susan Wear.

## Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians  
Celebrating February birthdays:*

Willi Beilfuss, Marty Blackburn, Ken Fink, Anita Gandy, Linda Glover, and The Rev. Dr. David Nelson

## 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

Children.....Stacey Shafer  
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  
Writer .....Susan Shinn Turner  
Facility Manager.....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

### Sunday Worship

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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### Eagle's View Deadline

The March Eagle's View will be published in February.  
Please email stories and news to  
ruthann@stjohns-salisbury.org by February 11!

**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.*