

Eagle's View

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December 22/January 23
St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC



By Susan Shinn Turner

After a hugely successful inaugural year, Christmas on Church Street returns Dec. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. "It's an opportunity for people to gather together and experience the spirit of the season and the spirit of Christmas," Pastor Greg Williams says. Because the city is short-staffed, the event will take place entirely at Bell Tower Green, he notes. "We've rented the entire park," he says of the downtown churches. "It will all be pedestrian friendly, and we won't impede traffic flow."

Participating congregations include: St. John's, St. Luke's Episcopal, First Presbyterian, First Methodist, and First United Church of Christ. Each will create a scene centering on the birth of Christ, set up around the edges of the park. A person or a recording at each location will tell the story of the scene as small groups gather.

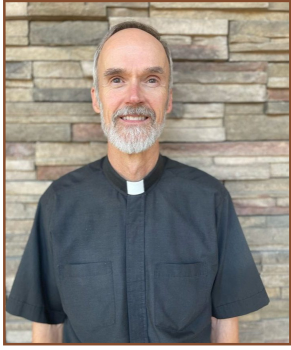
As with last year, a mass choir will sing at the bandstand. Mean Mug will also be on hand with its food truck for hot chocolate and coffee. Additionally, Pastor Greg says, "Each congregation is reaching out to a traditionally African-American congregation to invite them to share in the creation of the scenes and in the mass choir."

This is Pastor Greg's first year at Christmas on Church Street. "I'm most looking forward to the gathering of friends and neighbors in the community and meeting new people," he says. "We want people to take a break from the rush of the season."

The congregation extends a special thank you to Franco and Brenda Goodman for donating this year's Community Christmas Tree. "It will be a great setting with the bandstand on one corner of the park and the tree at the opposite corner," Williams says.

stjohns-salisbury.org





Pastor Greg Williams

Farewell and Welcome

On December 4, we bid Ruth Ann Diehl farewell as we celebrate her 20+ years of ministry at St. John's. Most recently, Ruth Ann has served as the Business Manager. We give thanks for her faithful leadership and diligent work through the years. We pray that she has many years to enjoy a new pace of life during her retirement.

In the midst of changes this fall, I want you to know that Ruth Ann has been planning her retirement on December 31, 2022 this entire year. In January 2022, Ruth Ann informed the senior pastor about her plan. In June, the Personnel Committee was told about her impending retirement. In August, she shared her plans with the staff.

After learning about Ruth Ann's plans, the Personnel Committee got to work. They updated the job description, posting this position on Indeed (an online job search website). After initial screenings, several viable candidates were interviewed. Thanks Personnel Committee for your excellent work!

I am pleased to share that we offered this position to our own, Deborah Cross! On December 1, Deborah officially began her new duties as our Church Administrator (new name for Ruth Ann's position). Not only does Deborah bring a thorough knowledge of the culture of St. John's but she also possesses the essential skills to excel as our new Church Administrator.

Yep, Deborah's new staff position created another vacancy

I am also pleased to announce that as of December 1, Vivian Connor officially began her new duties as Office Manager. Her abilities are also a great fit for this position and those additional responsibilities.

In addition to the crazy-busy schedule that December brings to office staff members, Deborah and Vivian are also training for their new positions. Please show them an extra measure of grace as they train while continuing to complete the additional tasks that December's events bring.

+Pastor Greg

Ruth Ann Diehl Retiring After 22 Years

By Susan Shinn Turner

Ruth Ann Diehl began work at St. John's as a part-time bookkeeper on the very first day of the new millennium. Well, sort of.

"I was supposed to start on Jan. 2, 2000," Ruth Ann recalls. "But interestingly enough, there was an ice storm, and I couldn't start for a couple of days because the church was closed." When the storm cleared, Ruth Ann began a career at St. John's that would last 22 years — except for a year she worked for the Town of Bermuda Run.

Ruth Ann, who turns 62 on Christmas Day, will retire on the last day of the year. "I've always felt called to St. John's," says Ruth Ann, who's been business manager since 2008. "I've always felt a connection."

Ruth Ann first worked for Pastor Carl Sachtleben, then Rhodes Woolly. She progressed from a full-time bookkeeper to her current role.

Ruth Ann says her work "has less to do with business and more to do with ministry. You become a part of the family of the St. John's community. You share in their celebrations, their grief, and their struggles, as they do in yours. It's my family away from my family. I have grown in my career knowledge and my spiritual knowledge."

Ruth Ann has decided to retire "early," she says, so she can spend more time with husband Phil, a cancer survivor and thriver. They'll celebrate 31 years of marriage on Feb. 14. They plan to spend two months in Florida in the winter with family and friends, and two months at Lake Ontario in the summer with family and friends, returning home in spring and fall. They also may "wander out West" in their camper at some point, Ruth Ann says.

The Diehls have one son and three daughters as well as grandchildren, the youngest of which are five months and 1 year. "I'm definitely looking forward to spending more time with all the grandchildren," Ruth Ann notes.



Ruth Ann Diehl, Business Manager

Along with camping with Phil, Ruth Ann is an avid reader. She's also looking forward to returning to all the hobbies she didn't have time for: sewing, cross-stitch, needlepoint. She'll also continue to walk with a group of ladies in her neighborhood who start at 5:15 each morning. But now she can go home and enjoy another cup of coffee, or time with her "younger" husband (by 4 1/2 months).

"Of course I'll miss the people at St. John's," Ruth Ann says. "But I'll miss the work: problem-solving, thinking outside the box. I've had the opportunity to learn something new every day."

"Throughout my career here, I have been blessed with wonderful mentors, and each new employee who joins our team brings the gift of new ideas."

And Ruth Ann has certainly been a gift to St. John's, Pastor Carl says. "Ruth Ann was a blessing and a real joy to work with," he says. "She knew bookkeeping procedures for sure, but more than that she shared helpful ideas in our staff meetings and cooperated so well with everyone."

"It's been a delight to see how her contributions have continued through all these years as she has worked with many new staff personnel. 'I always said, 'Have a question? Ask Ruth Ann. She'll be able to help!'"

Thank you, Ruth Ann! All best wishes for many happy and healthy retirement years!

Dec./Jan. Children's Ministry

- **Dec. 4, 2:30 pm** - Seasons of the Church Milestone (Ark)
- **Dec. 14, 5:30 pm** - Children's Christmas program and dinner (Pit)
- **Dec. 18, 9:27 am and 11 am**: Chrismons will be handed out to children
- **Dec. 21, 7 pm** - Christmas Bedtime Story with Ollie (Zoom)
- **Dec. 24, 4:45 pm** - Family Christmas Eve Worship



*March with
Thanksgiving Milestone*



"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." JOHN 3:16, GNT

Stacey's Musings

December 4-Kindergarten milestone at 2:30 pm in the ARK! RSVP TODAY!

December 14-Please note: even if you do not regularly attend Wednesday evening we would love to have you! The children who attend Wednesday evening programming will sing, share the story "A Night Like No Other" with families. The short Christmas program will be followed by pizza, salad, hot coco, cookie decorating, crafts and our traditional Jesus Birthday Cake family bags will be given out. *Santa may even be making a special stop for us this evening!

December 18-Kids wear your Christmas PJs and come sit with Mrs. Stacey upfront during 9:27 am worship, as we listen to music and celebrate Jesus!

December 18- Chrismon's will be given out during both worship services. For families unable to attend Dec. 14 please pick up your traditional Jesus Birthday Cake family bags in Peeler Hall.

December 21 - A Christmas bedtime story with Ollie and Mrs. Stacey! We will be reading "Bethlehem Barn" by Debra Westgate-Silva. 7pm on Zoom- contact me if you didn't receive the Zoom link!

December 24- 5pm family Christmas Eve Worship. If your family is attending this service I would love to have them meet me in the Narthex at 4:45 pm to process in. At that time the kids will sit upfront while Pastor James and I share the story of Jesus. Kids will go back to their seats after the story. *My favorite time of the year!*

New Playground

Goal \$65,000

Giving
Opportunities



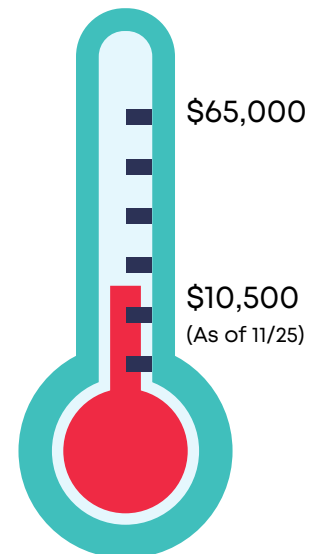
[stjohns-salisbury.org/
playground](http://stjohns-salisbury.org/playground)

GIVE THE GIFT OF PLAY

The new playground fundraising is off to a great start! Thank you to all who attended and gave towards our Pancake fundraising kick-off event. If you are looking for a great project to give towards, members of the church are invited to "Give the Gift of Play" this Christmas.

Here's how it works: Honor someone special with giving the gift of play and we will send them a Christmas Card to share the news! The card can be sent with whatever message you choose. What a great way to show your encouragement to this most worthwhile project.

"Give the Gift of Play" by completing your purchase online (stjohns-salisbury.org/playground) or by filling out a slip off of the Playground trees in Peeler Hall and in the narthex of the sanctuary. Be sure to add your special message. Thanks for participating!



We have received a generous anonymous gift of matching funds in the amount of \$10,000. Deadline for matching funds is Dec. 31.





Youth Calendar

- **1st and 2nd Sunday (12/4 and 12/11)**
3:30 pm - Confirmation (Well)
5 pm - Youth Group (Pit)
- **3rd Sunday (12/18)**
5:30-7:30 pm
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!
- **Tubing/Ice Skating YOUTH OUTING (12/21)**
Day trip to Charlotte for tubing/ice skating at Truist Field. RSVP by 12/18. Cost is \$35
- **4th Sunday (12/25)**
Christmas! Youth activities on break until Sunday 1/8/23.
- **Stay posted for January Dates in the Weekly Youth Newsletters!**

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

By Pastor James Demmel

The month of November was full of fun youth activities and learning. Our Confirmation students considered the relationship between faith and science and focused on the "why?" behind creation. We also took three students to our first Faith Alive Confirmation retreat at Lutheridge where they explored the promise they will make to work for justice and peace in all the world. In the months of December and January, students will be breaking out their Bibles and jumping into a study of the Old Testament

Our high schoolers continued to focus on the theme of friendship this month which culminated in a Friendsgiving meal and a Thanksgiving game team competition. And yes, the winners got to pie me in the face! In December, we will focus closely on the Christmas story ahead of our Christmas Party on Dec. 18. *We will break for Youth activities after over Christmas break and will start up again on Sunday, January 8.*

Parents- mark your calendars to join us for dinner and a parents meeting on Sunday, January 15 from 5-6 pm. At this meeting I'll give an update on youth ministry plans and dates for the Spring and Summer of 2023!

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS!

As we begin a new calendar year, we are going to launch the start of a young adult group at St. John's. This group will be for folks in their **20s and 30s** who are looking for fellowship and community. As we get to know one another and form as a group, we will look to grow together in our faith lives through prayer, study, and discussion. Our first gathering will be from **6:30-8:30pm on Thursday, January 19** at the home of Marian and David Schouweiler. This gathering will be mostly social, but we will have discussion around what this group should look like as we move forward!

RSVP with Pastor James (james@stjohns-salisbury.org) by January 6 to learn more details and to help us plan for food and childcare (if desired!).



October was filled with so much fun and excitement at the Child Development Center. Each of our children got to visit the CDC Pumpkin Patch and choose their own pumpkin. We had Spirit Week and enjoyed seeing our children dress up. On October 31st, we had our Trunk or Treat event where the children got to trick or treat in our playground area as well as in the parking lot with our families and church staff. Special thanks to the church staff and the CDC Advisory Board members for helping and participating.

The staff recently completed a literacy challenge by reading 100 books to the children in our center. We have a new literacy challenge, and our staff is trying to help our turkey gain his tail feathers by reading a book and doing an activity based on the book with the children. Research has shown that reading aloud to young children benefits them in multiple areas including language development, comprehension, and social/emotional skills.



Please keep the CDC in mind as you clean out old toys and book to make way for new ones. Gently used toys can be used in our classrooms or passed along to some of our families with limited resources. Please contact Lea Anne Thomas if you have anything you would like to donate.

We are thankful for each of our families and our church.

Lea Anne Thomas, Executive Director

November and December are also busy months. Our children will host a Christmas Program for their parents and families on December 2 at 6 pm in the Faith Center. This will be the first program in several years and we are excited to gather to sing and celebrate the Christmas season.



New Space, New Art

By Susan Shinn Turner

With the newly renovated space at St. John's comes new artwork. Two photo murals will find a place in Ritchie Hall, says Sherry Mason Brown, a member of the G2G interior and furnishings team. One mural is church scenes from the 1920s to the 1950s, including a photo from Raymond and Shirley Ritchie's wedding. The other mural shows photos from the 1960s to the current day. All the photos are sepia toned, and are being produced by Miller Davis.

"Those are going to be outstanding," Sherry says of the murals. "These photos showcase different scenes of fellowship." An abstract print of "Walking on the Water" by Kume Bryant will also find a home in the new space.

Upstairs in the elevator lobby, Sherry has chosen a vibrant painting from a Charlotte artist, Jean Lee Cauthen, called "The Visitation," with Mary and Elizabeth embracing. "I wanted to make that entrance as welcoming as the front of the church," Sherry notes.

Moving from the lobby, on the slanted wall between the choir room and Sanctuary, there will be a print by John August Swanson based on the story of the Prodigal Son. On the wall next to the new restroom across from the choir loft will be a print by Swanson called "The River."

"Jesus and the Children," a favorite piece of Shirley Ritchie's will be located on the Church Street side of the Sanctuary on the opposite angled wall.

The hallway between the choir room and back of Sanctuary will become the hall of pastors, Sherry says. Those photos are being digitized, with the pastors' names and dates of service included to make each easier to read.

Sherry thanks Doug Robinson and Meetta Lampert from the archives team for their help in pulling together all of the historic photos.

Join us for the Dedication Service and celebration brunch on Jan. 8 after 11 am worship to see the new artwork unveiled.

Dementia Care in Bethlehem

By Raeda Mansour

As part of the Bethlehem Senior Memory Care Initiative, with the support and the generous gift we received from your side, Dar al Kalima hosted a Dementia seminar and dinner, "Let's Face Alzheimer's Together" on Oct. 11 at the Dar-Alkalima University campus.

The objective of this seminar was to provide an opportunity for 110 professionals, caregivers and seniors from the Ajyal ministry. They had lectures by three outstanding specialists in this field: Gerontology Physician, Dr. Ashraf Alhusainy, Mr. Ibrahim Ighbarieh who specializes in Public Health and Society and is the Director of the Nursing Department in Maccabi Health Services, East Jerusalem. Mrs. Hana Alrabady also specializes in Public Health. She works with the World Vision Foundation as director of the Department of Evidence, Evaluation and Program Quality.

The seminar was opened by Professor Dr. Rev. Mitri Raheb, president of Dar Alkalima University, who pointed out the importance of such initiatives to raise awareness of the community and help professionals and health care providers to understand the nature of dementia and provide them with the necessary information and skills to deal with patients who struggle with Alzheimer's and Dementia issues.

Dr. Ashraf Alhusainy spoke about: "Quality of life for people with dementia", emphasizing the importance of patient dignity as well as comparing the difference between the rights of a person with dementia in Israel and of those in the West Bank. This comparison was disappointing for the audience when they realized how far we are from other countries in terms of elderly rights and challenged them to start initiating a committee to start a movement asking decision-makers to include the elders in their agenda and policies.

Mr. Ibrahim Ighbarieh spoke about: "Care and needs of people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease" He used case studies, role play, and showed videos of challenges when it comes to caring for an Alzheimer's patient.

Mrs. Hana Alrabady spoke about: "Diet recommendations for Alzheimer's patients". She also spoke in detail about the types of foods that should focus on to reduce the incidence of disease.

The seminar included two wonderful entertainment programs, the traditional Palestinian dance (Dabkeh) by the Dabkeh team at Dar- Alkalima theatre dance and a drama show presented by two actors from Dar- Alkalima drama team about a dad who shows early signs and symptoms of Dementia and his daughter struggles with how to handle it.

The seminar concluded with a wonderful dinner at our restaurant in Dar Alkalima University campus.

A huge thank you to our wonderful partners at St. John's Lutheran Church whose generous donations supported this event completely.





Bring a snack and beverage to share, your own glass, & your Advent Project donations. More information online.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ADVENT PROJECT

This Christmas we would like to partner with the same local charity we supported for our "God's Work. Our Hands" day. A little bit about Happy's Farm: Happy's Farm is a Rowan County non-profit that provides affordable tutoring, after school care, and behavioral coaching to young people in a western setting. Their mission is to instill in children that (1) they are loved; (2) they are important; and (3) they can do almost anything if they apply themselves.

How can St. John's help? Happy's Farm is in need of paper products, baking supplies, and a good quality stand mixer. However, when we asked what they needed their first response was "We would love to be able to purchase each child in the program a warm hoodie from Granite Knitwear and let them pick their own decal to put on it." This will impact over 85 young people in our community.

- If you would like to give supplies to Happy's Farm, please do so by giving a Food Lion gift card.
- If you would like to help with the purchase of the mixer, please do so by giving an Amazon gift card.
- If you want to help buy a warm hoodie for a child going through the program, please do so by making a cash/check donation, please mark it as "Women's Advent Project". It is estimated that each hoodie with decal will cost about \$25.

Please bring your donations to the Christmas party on **Dec. 8** or **sent into the church by Dec. 18.**



St. John's Women's Ministry Packing Party at RHM
is the second Tuesday of the month at 1 pm.

We hope to see you there!

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS

HERE COMES THE LIGHT!

Dec. 11 | 4 pm | Sanctuary

Here Comes the Light! A St. John's Men's Chorus Christmas Concert

Please join us on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 pm in the Church Sanctuary for our St. John's Men's Chorus Christmas Concert, Here Comes the Light! Directed by Rob Durocher, Minister of Worship and the Arts, and accompanied by Janie Rollins, Assisting Parish Musician, this year's concert will also include Soloist, Ricky Howsare; Saxophonist, Chase Webb; Harpist, Connie Burleson; Percussionist, Davis Brown and our Luther Ringers, under the direction of Kim Lentz. The concert will also include narration and congregational carol singing. We hope that you'll set aside the afternoon of December 11 and join us for this uplifting time of musical joy!

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Our traditional "Service of Lessons and Carols" will be offered at the 11 am worship service on Sun, Dec. 18 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, Hand Bells and Instrumental Ensemble. The music of various composers will be featured. The Choirs are directed by Rob Durocher accompanied by Janie Rollins, Assistant Musicians and Davis Brown, percussion. Our Pastors and other readers will lead us through the glorious story of Christ's birth!

Christmas on Church Street

The Church Street Choir is open to those who would like to add their voice to the combined choir made up of voices from our churches on Church St. as part of this year's exciting Christmas on Church Street, Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Church Street Choir will be singing very familiar Christmas Carols in three sets. We will be singing in parts; however, singing in melody will be fine. If you are interested in joining, please contact: rob@stjohns-salisbury.org

Upcoming Events

- **Dec. 11, 4 pm** - Men's Chorus Christmas Concert (Sanctuary)
- **Dec. 18, 11 am** - Lessons and Carols, (Sanctuary)
- **Dec. 16, 6 pm** - Christmas on Church Street caroling (Bell Tower Green)
- **Dec. 24, 5 pm & 8 pm** - Christmas Eve Worship, (Sanctuary)
- **Dec. 25, 11 am** - Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)
- **Jan. 6, 12:15 pm** - Epiphany Day Worship
- **Jan. 8, 11 am** - Worship followed by G2G Dedication

Dec. Rehearsal Calendar

- **Chancel Choir**
Wednesdays at 7 pm
(Chapel)
- **Lesson and Carols**
Rehearsal - Dec. 14 at
7 pm
- **Christmas Eve**
Rehearsal - Dec. 21 at
7 pm

Jan. Rehearsal Calendar

- **Chancel Choir**
Wednesdays at 7 pm
(Choir Room)
- **Men's Chorus**
Sundays at 4 pm -
Jan. 15 (Choir Room)
- **Women's Ensemble**
Sundays at 5:15 pm
(Choir Room)

Christmas Eve Worship

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, the Chancel Choir will gather in the 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 not need to robe up for the 11 am Christmas Day Service, Sunday, Dec. 25, but will robe up to lead our 11 am Sunday, January 1, 2023, worship service (choir room gathers at 10:30 am). The choir will not rehearse on Wednesday, Dec. 28. We will return to rehearsing on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, at 7 pm in the choir room.

The preludes of our Christmas Eve Services include the musical gifts of our church family. The preludes begin about fifteen minutes before the 5:00 pm Family Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion, and half an 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 no later than Wed, Dec. 7. Rehearsal times will need to be arranged if your piece requires accompaniment and you should be mindful as to the length of your selection.

Christmas Day

We will only have the 11 am Worship Service that day. Invite your family who may be in town for the holidays and grab a friend along the way. We hope to see you all there!

Sanctuary Hospitality Schedule:

Dec. 4

- Breezeway - Melanie and Stan Ferguson
- Church St. - Linda Phillips

Dec. 11

- Breezeway- Scott Rhodes
- Church St. - Linda Phillips

Dec. 18

- Breezeway - Carol and Kent Brown
- Church St. - Judy Ann Deal and Janie Rowland

Dec. 24

5PM

- Breezeway - Larry Cesario
- Church St. - Rosalind Hines.

8PM

- Breezeway - Barbara Stauffer
- Church St. - Linda Phillips



FIRST IN PERSON GATHERING

GRACES held its first in-person Supporters Gathering since 2019! It was such a blessing to have GRACES supporters from all over the country come to Guatemala for graduations, home visits, family night and planning meetings for the organization. Twenty-two people traveled from 9 states for the week, with 10 of them coming to Guatemala for the first time.

"I was blown away by GRACES, the school, Ahava and the Academy of Future Leaders," said Tracy Hillis, who came from Arkansas. "I hope that people see the relationships that GRACES builds and that it can be more than just giving money - it's journeying beside your student or the classroom, as well as with the staff of the organizations and school."

In 2022, GRACES supported two education projects in Guatemala: Escuela Integrada and Ahava Ministries. Escuela Integrada is located in Jocotenango and provides education for students who live in extreme poverty. Ahava Ministries is an after-school program in Pastores where students receive academic assistance along with spiritual growth and life skill development.

Starting in Jan. 2023, GRACES will also support the Academy of Future Leaders, an English language and soccer program founded by Lauren (King) and Kevin Sanchez in Parramos. GRACES will award 15 scholarships for students to attend the program.

Throughout the week, supporters visited students' homes where they engaged in conversations with the families about their joys and their sorrows, along with the challenges of living in extreme poverty. "The home visits were especially touching," said Mary Hartley, a first-time visitor from Colorado. "Even when they have nothing, they give everything."

At the end of the week, 14 students graduated from ninth grade in the company of their families and teachers, along with GRACES' supporters. Ninth grade graduation in Guatemala is equivalent to high school graduation in the US.

During the graduation ceremony, each student lit a candle with the help of their family members. Then, they offered words of gratitude to their family and the school for the support they received to complete their education.

After ninth grade, the students will either begin working or they can attend a vocational program for additional education. Currently GRACES supports five students from each class to attend a vocational program through scholarships.

Throughout the week, supporters participated in update meetings with GRACES and Escuela Integrada staff members. The group discussed program goals, finances, communications, the Sponsorship Program and Vision Trips. These gatherings provided an opportunity to reflect on the 2022 school year and look ahead to 2023.

"GRACES and Escuela Integrada are a wonderful example of solidarity," said Michael Connor, a supporter from Salisbury, North Carolina. "GRACES is empowering Escuela Integrada, a Guatemalan-led school to fulfill its purpose of primary education."

In 2023, GRACES has a goal to welcome 100 new participants for Vision Trips in Guatemala, along with the celebration of Escuela Integrada's 20th birthday.

For more information about the organization or how to get involved, visit www.wearegraces.org.



Wednesdays!



Starting in Jan. 2023!

The time has finally arrived! Wednesday night meals will begin **Jan. 11 at 5:30 pm** in the new Fellowship Hall! Make plans to join in fellowship around the dinner table with old friends and new ones. The upcoming menus are our tried and true favorites.

This year reservations are required. You can RSVP at stjohns-salisbury.org/wednesdays, use the QR code below, or by calling the church office. No worries if you aren't able to make it after making your reservation, payment for your meal is due upon arrival.

Please note: Takeout plates may be available (but not always!) once those in attendance have been served.

We can't wait to see you there around the table!

New Pricing

\$5 - Adults
\$4 - Youth (6th - 12th grade)
\$2 - Kids (5th grade and younger)

Menu

Jan. 11 - Lasagna, crunchy romaine salad, Texas toast, million dollar pie

Jan. 18 - Meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable medley, cucumbers and onions, roll, banana pudding

Jan. 25 - Chicken tetrazzini, green beans, caesar salad, Texas toast, peach cobbler

Feb. 1 - Loaded potato bar, broccoli, baked apples, roll, brownies

(Menu subject to change - check the website for the latest updates)



Sign up with the QR code
or visit us at
stjohns-salisbury.org/wednesdays

*Seniors Seasons*

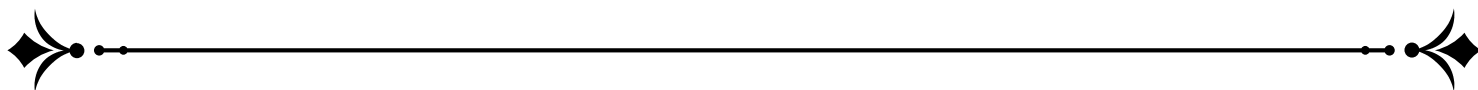
Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11:30am-1 pm in the PIT

Entertainment provided by St. John's Kindergarten & Ondria Witt
Sign Up Online.

Join us for the Senior Seasons Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 6 at 11:30 in the Pit. Cost: \$8

The St. John's Kindergarten will perform at 11:45, **so come early**. At 12:30, Ondria Witt, daughter of Rob Durocher, will delight us with an array of Christmas music. Come, enjoy the meal and program in the fellowship of good friends!



January

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

- **Jan. 11:** In case you are unable to be at the G2G Phase II Dedication Service, you can join us as Mike Agee walks us through the newly renovated space and share stories of all the fun had along the way.
- **Jan. 18 – Feb. 15:** Bradley Trick will lead a bible study on the book of Matthew. *Location to be determined.*

Check February's Eagles View for more information on Senior Academy, which will be offered on Tuesdays in March 2023.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Gary Rhodes, who was recently recognized by the N.C. State Bar for his 50 years of service as an attorney in North Carolina. These are his reflections.

Three amazing blessings have characterized my 50 years as a lawyer in North Carolina. Each of these is an expression of pure, unmerited grace which has enriched my life immensely.

The first of these is my family; my wife Scott, with whom I have shared almost 57 incredible years, and our two sons, Todd and Davey, who have grown from babyhood into wonderful men during this time. Todd practiced law himself for almost 15 years. Davey, our younger Down Syndrome son, now almost completely disabled and living in residential care, lived a vibrant and fulfilled life with us for 50 years, becoming a public speaker who advocated for the developmentally disabled and a spokesman for Special Olympics Athletes for Outreach.

My avocations have been equally challenging and sustaining. I have served several terms as Church Council president in two Salisbury Lutheran congregations. I have served as president, and in other leadership positions as well, with the Rowan County YMCA and The ARC, advocating for those persons in our community with developmental disabilities (or differentially abled). My love of sports led me to not only play competitive basketball until I was 63, but also to serve as a Little League baseball and youth basketball coach for 20 years. Lastly, having attained some small degree of proficiency playing trumpet in elementary school, I was given an opportunity to engage my passion for music for 30 years as a member of the band now known as the Salisbury Swing Band.

My vocation and career has been the continuous practice of law, which, perhaps increasingly rare in this profession, has been at one small firm in Salisbury, Carlton, Rhodes, and Carlton. I was born and grew up near Reeds, N.C., just outside Lexington in Davidson County, the son of furniture worker parents. As a first-generation college student, I was fortunate to be awarded Dixie

Foundation and Pfeiffer College Trustee Scholarships. I received my A.B. degree from Pfeiffer College in 1968, and, with the benefit of a Carswell Law Scholarship, earned a J.D. degree from Wake Forest University in 1972 after having spent 18 months in between with Western Electric as an industrial accountant.

As is the case with many small-town law practitioners, I am a general practitioner, having practiced civil and criminal law, family law, probate and estate law, real estate, disability and worker's compensation, and administrative law before many courts and agencies. The matters I undertook ranged from small claims to capital cases.

I take particular pride in my cases which led to established law in North Carolina in the areas of establishing the rights of developmentally disabled person to live in family care home settings, and in the interpretation of underinsured coverage provisions in automobile insurance policies. I have also been active in introducing the concept of reentry for citizens being released from jail and prison through Transitional Aftercare Network, a faith-based volunteer program, and North Carolina Reentry Council, a state-supported initiative.

My story would not be complete without expressing the profound gratitude and thankfulness to God for St. John's. While St. John's did not enter the lives of my family until the evening of my law practice when we joined in 2010, the impact of our faith journeys has been inestimable.



Although neither Scott nor I grew up Lutheran, we had been active for 30 years in a local rural and smaller Lutheran congregation when we came to St. John's. While I was personally committed to continuation of my faith life as a Lutheran, we had no road map for how that would unfold. Rhodes Woolly and Pastor Jan Huntley shared their visions of the St. John's mission, and we were welcomed and surrounded by a congregation who showered us with love. We were very soon immersed in an entirely new world of exciting worship experiences and community and global ministries. I can affirm without reservation that St. John's gave me an opportunity to renew my faith life at a time when it was floundering.

Lastly, I could not have enjoyed a life in the career path that I chose and to which I committed my life legacy, in a community that we chose, and in a faith community that embraced us, without the support and encouragement of Scott, and the love of our two children. Scott, who had already supported me through my last two years of undergraduate school, and who had every reason to discourage me from undertaking another three long years of law school, embraced my dream, and for that, I will be ever grateful to her and thankful to God.

Hope for Today
A Counseling Ministry of St. John's
Lauren Stephenson, M.S., LMHCA, NCC

Thank you Lauren !

Lauren Stephenson will be concluding her counseling ministry at St. John's at the end of 2022. She has been faithful to members of our church and community offering individual and group counseling services on-site since 2020.

Lauren will remain a vital part of our church and community as she continues her counseling ministry full time at Catawba College. She also has two very active boys that keep her busy and on the run.

Best wishes Lauren. May God continue to bless you as you have blessed others.



LIVE
FROM

Bethlehem
AND
Philadelphia

Dec. 17 | 9:30 am | Faith Center

Christmas at St. John's

Poinsettias, Wreaths, and Candles

Thursday, Dec. 15, deadline for ordering.
See page 19 for details and order form.

Senior Seasons Christmas Gathering

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 11:30 am in the Pit.
Cost: \$8

Women's Christmas Party

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6 pm, Ann Brady's House

Kingdom Kids Christmas Program

Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 pm, Pit

Here Comes the Light! A St. John's Men's Chorus Christmas Concert

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. See page 11 for details.

Kindergarten Christmas Program

Friday, Dec. 16 at 10 am, Faith Center

Christmas on Church Street

Friday, Dec. 16 at 6 pm, Bell Tower Green

Bethlehem Lessons and Carols Simulcast

Saturday, Dec. 17 at 9:30 am, Faith Center

Join us for this live broadcast celebrating the birthday of the Prince of Peace, between Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 18, 5:30 pm, Pit

A Contemporary Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9:27, Faith Center

Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11 am, Sanctuary

The story of Christ's birth will be told in song, carols, scripture and special readings. See page 11 for details.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Saturday, Dec. 24 at 5 pm, Sanctuary

A beautiful Christmas service created with our children in mind. The prelude begins at 4:30 pm.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, Dec. 24 at 8 pm, Sanctuary

Our time-honored festival candlelight service includes the story of Christmas as presented by brass, choirs, handbells, festival liturgy, and candlelight. The prelude will begin at 7:30 pm.

Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec. 25 at 11 am, Sanctuary
(No 9:27 worship)



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 for Poinsettias, Wreath's and Candle's may be mailed to or taken to the church office. Deadline for ordering will be **Thursday, December 15**. Donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Service bulletin.

✂️ -----
Given by _____

Decoration	Price	In Memory of.....	In Honor of.....
Poinsettia	\$15.00 each		
Hanging a Wreath	\$25.00 each		
Lighting a Candle	\$20.00 each		
General Decorations	Amount \$ _____		

A budget to support our ministry

The St. John's Congregation Council recognizes our role to be good stewards of God's resources and to invite people into a relationship with the vision and mission of this church.

Partnership with the NC Synod	80,000
Children and Youth Discipleship	
Kingdom Kids and EPIC Sunday school, weekday church school, Milestone ministries, bible school, The Well middle school & Fuel high school leagues, Sunday school, mission trips, outreach support Staff Support : Pastor for Youth and Outreach Children's Minister	108,685
Adult Discipleship and Congregational Life	
Library resource center, Disciple Bible Study, new member programs, Adult education & Sunday school, Small group training, materials, GIFT women's and men's ministries Congregation-wide fellowship events, Easter events, Octogenarian Luncheon, bereavement meals, Senior Seasons, Senior Academy, Healthcare ministries Staff support: Pastor for Congregational Care Assistant Program Minister	77,320
Mercy and Justice	
Conversations that Matter, God's Work, Our Hands Note: in 2018 the Endowment Fund provided \$54,000 in grants to Local and global ministries	2,300
Worship and The Arts	
Music library, organ/piano maintenance, guest musicians, Guest preachers, worship supplies, altar supplies, radio ministry, home bound bulletins, media, choral and hand bell music Support staff: Minister of Worship and the Arts Contemporary Worship Leader Production Manager	215,303
Stewarding God's Resources	
Stewardship programs and materials, Ministry Response	4,650

Pastoral support:

Senior Pastor

Pastor for Congregational Care

Pastor for Youth and Outreach

137,157**Facility Management :**

Maintenance supplies and repairs, major repairs,

Utilities and fuel, property insurance, yard maintenance

Support staff: Facilities Manager

Custodian

336,444**Office Management**

Printing supplies, equipment, service contracts, postage,

telephones, office hospitality, computer equipment,

accounting service

Support Staff: Business Manager

Office Manager

Office Assistant

Accounting

247,342**Congregation Council and Leadership Training**

Conventions and Synod Assemblies, travel expenses, leadership training


8,400**Personnel**

Pension, health insurance, workers compensation, FICA,

221,309**Total Proposed Budget \$ 1,438,910**

Annual Meeting

December 11, 2022 at 10:15 am**Faith Center and via Zoom**



Mail our homebound members Christmas Cards or bring them to the church office by Dec. 7 to be delivered by visitors.

Martha Blackburn
728 Klumac Rd Apt. 223B
Salisbury, NC 28144

Bill Blomer
3310 Jacobs Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Margaret Brady
1216 Park Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28146

William Cline
304 S. Link Ave.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Eva Doyle
3013 Bramblewood Ct.
Waldorf, MD 20603

Pat Epting
3750 Harper Rd.
Clemmons, NC 27102

Pat Fahey
728 Klumac Rd. Apt. 257-D
Salisbury, NC 28144

Anne Ficken
728 Klumac Rd., Apt. 260 D
Salisbury, NC 28144

Anita Foreman
728 Klumac Rd., Apt 227C
Salisbury, NC 28144-5745

Ted and Frances Goins
728 Klumac Rd., Apt 126B
Salisbury, NC 28144

Bud Graeber
105 Snead Ct.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Judy Johnson
335 Lumen Christie Ln., #104
Salisbury, NC 28147-6799

Margaret Ketner
1915 Mooresville Rd., Room C-17
Salisbury, NC 28144

Bob Loeblein
728 Klumac Dr., Apt. 207-A
Salisbury, NC 28144

LaNell Martin
231 Stonewall Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Harold Mowery
104 Wavery Cir.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Genny Mozolac
107 River Birch Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28146

Reggie Munday
7100 Grandeur Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Joanne Myers
805 Newsome Rd., Apt. 702
Salisbury, NC 28146

Pat O'Neal
126 Pond View Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28147

Ermine Peeler
12809 Fox Meadow Dr.
Richmond, VA 23233

Davey Rhodes
110 Pecan Lane
Salisbury, NC 28146

Sarah Roberts
322 Laurel Valley Way
Salisbury, NC 28144

Cora Shinn
7501 Leadmine Rd
Raleigh, NC 27615

Barbara Sims
540 Club House Dr.
Salisbury, NC 28144

Alda Smith
114 North Milford Dr
Salisbury, NC 28144

Betsy Wengert
820 Klumac Rd., Apt. AC-2
Salisbury, NC 28144

Condolences

Family of Gary Pinkston who died on 11/8.

Family of Dorothy Bedford (Cindee Bridges' mom) who died on 11/17.

JOIN US!

Adult Sunday School

Fellow worshipers who are not presently a part of a Sunday School group are cordially invited to join the Martin Luther Sunday School Class each Sunday morning at 9:45 A.M. in the Martin Luther Classroom in the Educational Building.

This Bible Study features video presentations and class discussions taken from materials often available for study in the St. John's Library, and is centered around topics offered by well-known Christian pastors and authors such as Adam Hamilton and Andy Stanley.

Please feel free to contact Gary Rhodes at 704-279-4302 for questions or further information.



**Congratulations to our
Octogenarians
Celebrating Birthdays**

December Birthdays:

Jane Barrier, Bill Blomer, Joanne Bullard, Mike Dunham, Margaret Ketner, Meeta Lampert, Nancy Lippard, Sarah Roberts, Bob Tannehill

January Birthdays:

Nancy Austin, Jim Benton, Ann Bostian, Raymond Gandy, Carol Hair, Mary Lou Lentz, John Lipe, Bob Loeblein, Nancy Parrish, Carol Rabon, Eleanor Sifford, Barbara Wagoner



Dear St. John's Friends,

Along with the Banks family, may I send my thanks to all at St. John's who had a part in the life of Benny Banks and her promotion to Glory. She was as a sister to me and what was done for her, was in full, done for me.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Norman Sloop

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Interim Senior Pastor.....Greg Williams
Pastor for Congregational Care.....Lori Carter
Pastor for Youth and Outreach.....James Demmel

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Ricky Howsare
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Accompanist.....Janie Rollins
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
Kindergarten Director (4 and 5 year olds).....Teresa Stoner
CDC Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Office Assistant.....Vivian Connor
Facilities Manager.....David Ellenburg
Custodian.....William Fisher
Accounting.....Mark Bias

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 In Person

Traditional Worship Sundays at 11 am in the Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship Sundays at 9:27 am in the Faith Center

Sunday Worship Online

A live broadcast of our 11am service is available in three formats: visit stjohns-salisbury.org and click "Listen Live," watch on Facebook Live, or search "SJLC" on YouTube. Of note, the best online quality will be through our website or YouTube.

The previous week's service is broadcast each Sunday at 9am on WSAT 1280 AM.

EAGLE'S VIEW (USPS 716—020)

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Eagle's View Deadline

The February Eagle's View will be published in January. Please email stories and news to deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org by January 13.

Prayer Chain

Our Prayer Chain is updated daily on our website and is password protected for your privacy. To add or subtract a name, or to obtain the password, please contact Vivian Connor at vivian@stjohns-salisbury.org. If you would like to receive a daily email about our prayer chain, email Vivian.



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