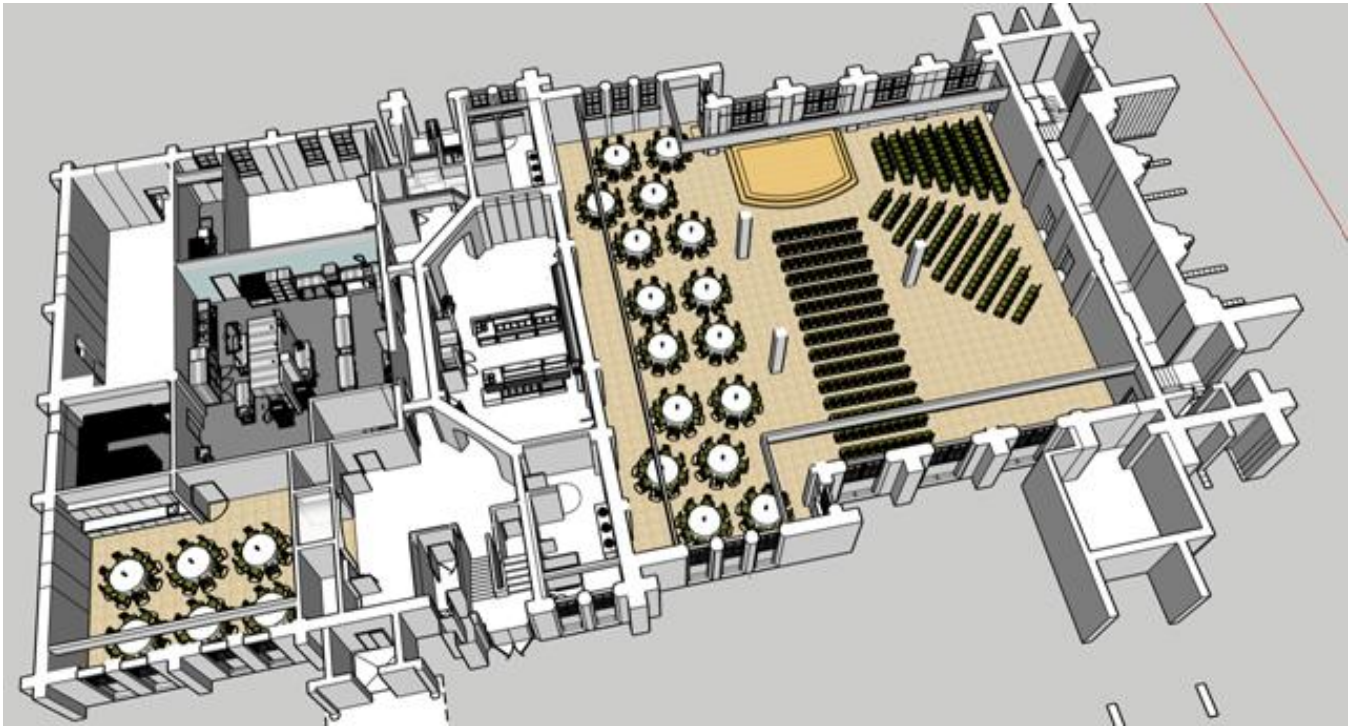


Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

## G2G Phase 2 Pandemic Update



By Mark Lewis, chair, G2G Steering Team

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. It has been a LOOONNNNGGG time since we last spoke about our G2G Phase 2 Campaign Results and Action Plan. As a refresher, let me tell you where we were in the campaign process when the lockdown began.

We rolled out Phase 2 of the Generation to Generation Campaign on Jan. 19, 2020 with outreach and communication to our congregation members for 4 weeks before Commitment Sunday on Feb. 23, 2020. That day, we had campaign commitments brought forth totaling \$2,438,391. Praise be to God! The \$2.4 million in campaign pledges presented 178 families of the identified 486 to complete a campaign pledge. So, what happened next?

The campaign timeline was to give 3 weeks of time after Commitment Sunday for other pledges to be collected through the mail and Sunday Offering Plates. Then a group of campaign volunteers was set to make phone calls and/or

email outreach to the over 300 family units that had not yet returned a pledge card. Alas, the pandemic would then be in full swing which caused tremendous uncertainty amongst our congregation and community. The G2G Phase 2 Steering Committee felt it best that we pause the fundraising at that point and wait until a more appropriate time to discuss contributing toward our G2G Phase 2 plan sometime in the future. That day is not here quite yet.

Just because we paused the fundraising doesn't mean that we stopped the development of the plans that we need to move forward when the funds are in hand. To that end, Building Committee Chairman, Mike Agee, in consultation with the Executive Committee, began working with our architects, Bill Burgin and Diane Gibbs with Ramsay, Burgin, Smith Architects.

Within this newsletter, Mike has an excellent article with detailed drawings to explain where we are through today and

*Continued on page 10.*



Sisters and Brothers,

"Grief is like waves." If you have heard me talk about death, you know that this is my motto. Grief is like waves in the ocean. It isn't something you get over. It is something you learn to live with like waves in the ocean. They never stop coming in. Maybe the first time you are out in the ocean, the big wave topples you over. That's okay. Every wave that comes in, you learn to lean into it a little differently. It

doesn't mean that there are no big waves or that you won't be toppled over again.

The waves of grief become an uninvited companion in your life. The small ones take you off guard: a smell, a saying, a laughable moment, a funny story, reaching for the phone to call or text. The large ones overwhelm you or make you queasy: a song, a first that happens, reality setting in, the loss of future memories, anger at the whole situation. Navigating the waves of grief becomes a daily routine. Yet, I have realized that "grief is like waves" doesn't tell the entire story. The waves rest in the water of God's love.

After my mom died, my nephews, who are 12 and 8, arrived at my parents' house to find Melissa, a family friend, there after making a Costco run for us. We didn't ask for it. She was just there anyway. I leaned down to Eliana, Connor, and Dylan amid their grief and said, "Do you want to see God's love? You might not feel it very strong now, but you can see it." They all looked at me like I was a little crazy but wanted to see this love. "Stand here and look at all the food coming into the house. That is God's love. Look at *ALL* the food." Person after person came filing into the house with a handful of food. At one point, my dad walked in with another handful and said, "Laura, I don't know where we are going to put this all." We found places in the house and in our bellies for *ALL* that food and love. We were overwhelmed with the water of God's love.

Furthermore, the sand your feet stand on is the grace and peace of God. You have to feel it. My mom spent 12 long days at Duke Hospital and could only have one visitor for the duration. My siblings gathered in Knoxville around my grandmother, while I stayed with my dad in a hotel. It was a rollercoaster. When she became stable enough, we wanted her back home. It happened fast, but it happened. Monday, July 20, I got to see my mom for the first time. We were there when the flight arrived at UT Medical Center. We got to talk to her, even though her eyes were not open, and she was not responsive. It didn't matter. She was home. We called in all

the family back to Knoxville on Monday night, knowing that she wasn't going to make it. Through it all, God's gift of grace for us became our peace.

On Tuesday morning, my mom opened her eyes. We didn't tell many people because it wasn't a positive step like we had been praying for. One eye was lazy, and the other couldn't shift past her mid-line. After getting a second opinion from the Neurologist, we knew life-sustaining measures would be taken away. The whole left side of her brain had severe brain damage. We knew in our heads that when my mom looked at us, she might be seeing but not comprehending what was going on. My head knew that, but my heart knew God can interpret, understand, and give us the closure that we so dearly needed and pass all our messages along to her. My dad, siblings and their spouses, grandmother, uncle and aunt had some of the most challenging and beautiful moments with my mom over the next 2 days.

Davin and I had our time to sit and talk to my mom. I got to thank her for always being there for me, for being my travel buddy, a second mother to my children when work was crazy and even when it wasn't, for witnessing the birth of both of my children and taking handwritten notes about what happened along the way, for forgiving me when I was a wild child and teenager, and for teaching me to be a mother and wife. After all of that, I told her that Davin and I often say "I love you" through three hand squeezes when we can't say it out loud. She looked at me and then at Davin. A couple seconds later, she started to squeeze my hand. My heart knew that was God giving me what I needed to go on. That moment of God's grace and peace will stay with me forever.

In the grief waves, God's love, grace, and peace surround you if you allow yourself the time to look for and feel it. I could go on and on with stories and moments of great grief and an even greater love, grace, and peace given by only God, but I will spare you. Instead, I will leave you with are the powerful words of Romans 8:38-39. "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When you feel like you are drowning in grief (for any reason, not just death grief), sisters and brothers look around and see God right in front of you. Feel the sand underneath you and know of God's grace and peace for you. If you have problems seeing or feeling God, ask someone to see and feel for you. That's the responsibility of the body of Christ.

Pastor Laura

# Mid-Week Communion Service Begins

By Susan Shinn Turner

Along with the 11 am livestream worship service and the 9:27 in-person worship, a third worship opportunity is now available at St. John's.

A mid-week communion service began on July 22. The 30-minute service takes place at 12:15 pm in the chapel, and is especially designed for older members. Strict guidelines for creating a safe worship space are being followed, including social distancing and the wearing of masks.

That doesn't stop it from being a meaningful service, however.

"It's on our calendar," says David Hord, who with wife Bonnie typically attends the 11 am service as a member of the Chancel Choir.

"It was certainly a very special time for us," he adds. "It's the first time we'd had communion since mid-March. It was something I needed. We're looking forward to putting that in our routine. It will be in the rhythm of our lives for a while."

Beth Boger agrees. She and husband Jim, who typically attend the 8:30 am Chapel Worship, have attended this service, too.

"It was absolutely wonderful to go in the chapel and worship," she says. "It is extremely well done. For anybody who is in any way threatened by going out in public, they don't need to feel that way here."

Boger said she and her husband would limit their attendance in order to let others have a chance to go. Seating capacity for this service is 35.

## Worship at St. John's

Sundays at 11am	Broadcast online from the Sanctuary by visiting our website or YouTube channel. Search "SJLC"
Sundays at 9:27am	In-person worship in the Faith Center. A gentle, 45-minute service led by our worship team. Thanks for wearing masks. More details on our website.
Wednesdays 12:15	Our mid-week communion service in the Chapel. Strict health protocols are followed.

# Save the Date for Consecration Sunday: October 11, 2020

*Michael DeNise, Stewardship Committee Chair*

For much of my adult life I've watched Mike & Mike on ESPN. They have a segment called "Love It or Shove It." Their producer would float an idea and they would either love it or shove it.

One thing I really love: Consecration Sunday, a time to gather together and make a common commitment to God's work at St. John's. I know, you're probably thinking my bar for excitement is low. But I'm excited about Consecration Sunday because in this pandemic, it feels like something "normal." I'm excited because when we talk about generosity and giving, it goes hand in hand with conversations about God's dream for us – and for our congregation.

Consecration Sunday is an annual event in which we are invited to discern what God is doing in our midst and how we

will support it with our financial gifts. Although the event may look different – I'm sad about not having a meal together – we still have the chance to dream, discern, and make a financial pledge from what God has entrusted us with.

So save the date for October 11, 2020. Our guest preacher for this year is The Rev. Dr. Tim Smith, Bishop of the North Carolina Synod, ELCA.

Church, my prayer for you over the next week as we prepare to gather – albeit virtually – is that you are surprised by our God, that you experience God speaking, that you see God at work in your midst. As we consider how we give, may God make you bold in your trust and brave in your giving.







**Kingdom Kids kicks off Sept. 13!** First Look begins a new season of Sunday School Facebook Live & Zoom. We'll also celebrate First Communion Sunday (Sept 13), and we'll have our first milestone event of the season.

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

Each week, all ages will receive our digital curriculum that families may watch together at their convenience. It's loaded with songs, a bible story and fun ways to focus on what we call our "bottom line." Look for more information through emails to come!



This month in **First Look** (birth to 4 years old) we will answer the question: Who has a plan for you? God has a plan for me! When we put all of the parts of Joseph's story together—just as with an ice cream sundae—it gives us a sweet reminder that we can trust that God has a plan for me, and it is always best. We just have to wait until God is done putting all of the parts together.

**Our Bible verse of the month: "FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU SAYS THE LORD." JEREMIAH 29:11**

Sept. 13, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
Sept. 20, 8:45-9:15 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom  
Sept. 20, 3:30-5 pm —First Look @ church \*ICE CREAM SUNDAYS\*  
Sept. 27, 9:45-10:40 am—Sunday School Facebook live & zoom

## A New Season of Milestones

On Sept. 13, we will celebrate our First Communion Milestone in 11 am Online Worship, and kick-off a new season of Milestones with our Baptismal Partners— 4th Grade Milestone in the Pit at 3 pm.



In September, our **252 Kids** (K-5th graders) will learn that with God's help, we can show true friendship by using words and actions that show others we care. It's a real celebration when everyone's invited to the party!

**Our Bible verse of the month: "A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES. THEY ARE THERE TO HELP WHEN TROUBLE COMES." PROVERBS 17:17**

Sept.. 13, 11am—1st Communion make-up date from March  
Sept. 13, 3-4:30 pm—4th grade Milestone "Baptismal Partners"  
Sept. 27, 3:30– 5pm-K-5th graders @ church \*BLOCK PARTY\*

# Youth Group Kick-Off

That's right! Youth kicks off on Sunday, Sept. 13.

At the church we have been focusing on SMALL. Pastor Laura has been working on a plan to find small and safe ways to be together in person this fall.

**Youth Group** will happen in person. Middle School and High School will meet at separate times. During youth, we will practice social distancing and break up into smaller groups, if necessary.

For updates or if you have question, contact Pastor Laura, at [laura@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:laura@stjohns-salisbury.org).

## The Well Middle School



This month, our middle school students will learn about comparisons in a series called "This or That."

**ABOVE ALL ELSE, GUARD YOUR HEART, FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FLOWS FROM IT. (PROVERBS 4:23)**

- **Confirmation** (7th and 8th graders) will happen on Wednesdays again. Confirmation will happen in 45 min sessions over Zoom for the first three lessons. These will be primary lecture style learning. The fourth week will be an experience as we have done in the past in person. We feel at this point that it will be the best form of learning for your students.

### September Schedule

Sept. 13, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group Kick-off  
 Sept. 20, 4- 5:15 pm, in the Pit– Youth Group (THIS OR THAT)  
 Sept. 23, 4-4:45 pm – Confirmation Unit 1 (ZOOM)  
 Sept. 27, 4-5:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group (THIS OR THAT)  
 Sept. 30, 4-5:15 pm – Confirmation Unit 1 (ZOOM)

## FUEL High School



In September, our high school students will focus on a series called "Like Me." There are a million ways to compare ourselves to other people. But the further we move away from comparison and toward contentment, the more we'll discover, "there's no one like me."

**DON'T COPY THE BEHAVIOR AND CUSTOMS OF THIS WORLD, BUT LET GOD TRANSFORM YOU INTO A NEW PERSON BY CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK. THEN YOU WILL LEARN TO KNOW GOD'S WILL FOR YOU, WHICH IS GOOD AND PLEASING AND PERFECT. (ROMANS 12:2)**

- **Fuel Outings** will happen once a month on a Wednesday. This is a time that we will gather outside so that we can have some fun and be together.
- **Fuel Study Hall** will happen every other Wednesday. Wednesday is a day that most of our students have off to study. This will be a structured time of socially distanced study with some fun thrown in– so students can get out of their homes from time to time.

### September Schedule

Sept. 9, 1-5 pm – FUEL Outing  
 Sept. 13, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group Kick-Off  
 Sept. 16, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall  
 Sept. 20, 6-7:15 pm, in the Pit – Youth Group (LIKE ME)  
 Sept. 23, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall  
 Sept. 27, 6- 7:15 pm, in the Pit– Youth Group (LIKE ME)  
 Sept. 30, 1-5 pm – FUEL Study Hall

## Be of Good Courage

*Diane Shares How Senior Seasons is Staying Connected*

By Diane Poole, Senior Adult Minister

### Faith in Action

The Senior Call Ministry continues and helps make sure that those who are living alone, or who need help in some way have their needs addressed. In James, the brother of Jesus talks about the importance of faith in action. James said that our faith is dead without it being an active faith. So, kudos to all those sweet volunteers who faithfully call our seniors ... and to all those who have been especially active during this pandemic!

### Summer Book Studies

St. John's members have been fortunate to have such meaningful book/bible studies throughout the summer. We have had studies for men, women, children, new members, and small groups for quite a while, but we added one for senior adults this summer. Some who were already participating in an existing study joined the senior adult study



too, so hopefully they were doubly blessed. It was rewarding to expand this ministry at a time when good communication is so important.

Want to learn more about our Senior Seasons ministry?  
Contact Diane at [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org)

## Coming up this September!

### Senior Seasons Academy

**If you have not signed up yet** for the Senior Academy's Fall Session, please register online or email [diane@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:diane@stjohns-salisbury.org) ASAP. By the time you receive this, the Kick-off may have already happened, but the next 6 weeks offers great quality programs. Participation is either zoom or onsite.

Sept. 1 Kick-Off: Salisbury **Symphony Executive Director**

**Hunter Safrit** will present the program at 10 am

Sept. 8 – Oct. 13:

10-11:30 am **"How to Read the Bible in 2020" Bible Study** with Pastor Rhodes Woolly.

11:30 am-12:30 pm Lunch break.

12:30-2 pm **Music Appreciation Program** developed by Rob Durocher.

### Other September happenings...

**GO OUT TO EAT DAY:** Thursday, Sept. 17, 11:30 am at the Olive Garden restaurant. Since I cannot provide soup for Senior Academy, you can enjoy everyone's favorite Minestrone! You are responsible for your own transportation. We will follow the CDC guidelines at the restaurant.

**SENIOR SERVICE PROJECT:** Collection of food items for Rowan Helping Ministry. Drop your items by the church on the Jackson Street entrance on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 9 am - 1 pm.



## Be of Good Courage

### Danny Unveils New Learning Opportunities for Adults

By Danny Hines, Adult Discipleship Minister

#### Looking for a new small group study?

Our 3-4 week small group studies provide you with a great opportunity to engage in Bible study that is practical, thought provoking and applies to your everyday life.

Once this series of classes is complete, we will provide another series starting sometime in October. You will have the opportunity to stay with your group or you can pick another topic and join another group. We will provide descriptions of the new topics in FaithLife and on our website under small group ministry. We will begin our small groups in a Zoom format, which means that participants can join from wherever they are in the US! When it's safe to do so, we'll transition to a combination of Zoom and in-person groups.

#### How do I sign up?

Contact me, Danny Hines, [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org). I will help you get connected with a small group and establish a day and time that works best for the whole group!



#### Divided – 3 week series

Win the relationship, not the argument. It's ok to disagree – it is actually healthy. Pursue connection over conflict. We'll see how Jesus navigated the tricky world of politics.



#### Limitless – 4 week series

Moses chose to let *God* determine who he was, who he should be and where he was headed. How? By eliminating the labels others put on him. How about you?

## New Book Study

A new book study, *Trust First: The Power of Giving People Second Chances*, will be held on Thursdays beginning Oct. 1, 7- 8 pm via Zoom. A link will be provided to participants. The study, led by Danny Hines, walks through Bruce Deel's book, *Trust First*, and is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes and Noble online, Walmart or check your favorite online source for books. This is a true story about the power second chances. Please send Danny an email at [danny@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:danny@stjohns-salisbury.org) if you are interested in joining this book study or would like more information.



#### The Chase – 3 week series

When it comes to our faith a lot of us feel like the Christian life comes with a finish line we'll never quite reach. If you're worn out, weary, or just plain overwhelmed this series is for you.



#### Together – 3 week series

There are things in life that were intended to be experienced together. A team is better together – that's the idea we are going to talk about in this series.



#### Connect – 3 week series

Good small groups can be the place where those "share anything" relationships start. This is a perfect beginning for getting your small group started and energized.



#### Into the Wild - 3 week series

Sometimes God calls us to take a step of faith out into the wild or unknown. This is an incredible series, based entirely on the story of Abraham, the "father of our faith."

## Ongoing Opportunities

### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

With Pastor Laura, 8-9 am via zoom  
Contact [Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org)

### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

With Pastor Rhodes, 8-9 am via zoom  
Contact [Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org)

### Just For Mom's Support Group

With Stacey Shafer, Wednesdays 8 pm via zoom  
Contact [Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org)

## Be Thou My Vision

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*  
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn #793)

By Rob Durocher, deacon  
*Minister of Worship and the Arts*

Over a thousand years ago and passed down from generation to generation the words of an Irish poem, '*Rop tu mo baile*' became known as the hymn *Be Thou My Vision*, written by Dallán Forgaill, (AD 530 – 598) an early Christian Irish poet. Although he was not a priest, his poetic writings reflected a great spiritual awakening in Ireland that began with the missionary work of St. Patrick in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. This time period saw the Irish begin to reject paganism and Druidism and embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ even raising up missionaries who were sent out of Ireland to other lands!



Dallán Forgaill who descended from the Irish High King Colla Uais, was considered a chief 'Ollam', or Poet in Ireland in his time. His faith and hard work helped to settle several Catholic churches throughout Ireland. He was also a scholar of Latin scriptural learning who studied so intensively that he eventually lost most of his sight, earning the nickname Dallán ("little blind one"). Because of his blindness and other struggles, his words spoke of how much he desired God's light and guidance, and what a treasure that was to him. His words were his prayer that God would be his vision and his presence would be his light, and that there would be nothing to come between or interfere with this relationship. In time, Monks would chant Dallán's poetry and eventually this would lead to his poem being sung as a hymn to the tune SLANE. (SLANE was a hill in County Meade, Ireland where St. Patrick allegedly defied the high king's order by lighting an Easter fire celebrating Christ's resurrection instead of lighting a traditional fire celebrating a pagan festival).

In 598, when pirates broke into the island monastery of Inniskeel, County Donegal, Dallán Forgaill was said to have been beheaded, his head thrown into the sea and his body buried on the island. He was given sainthood in the early 11th century and is known today as St. Dallán.

These days when I think on the words of this hymn, '*Be Thou My Vision*' has so much more meaning in light of how very much our lives and our worship practices have changed! I find myself asking 'what *IS* God's vision for his church' in a time of such a sudden reformation? What challenges and opportunities lie ahead of us? In a way – daunting as it is, it is also exciting! While we never get to decide what God's vision is for us and his church, we do get to participate in it because he calls us to it, and we worship a God who makes all things new!

Our prayers for God's guidance and vision, a renewal of spirit and enthusiasm, looking at the possibilities and not the pitfalls, thoughtful conversation and bright hopes for tomorrow in not only how but where we worship while embracing these new digital days give us such promise! Our worship staff remains committed to not only continuing the conversation, planning, not being afraid to try something different in bringing worship, music and the arts to you and our community – but welcome your thoughts and ideas as well!

*Continued...*



---

Little by little we're beginning to see an increase of those returning to 'in-house' worship at our 9:27 Sunday service, increased viewing of our streaming 11 am Sunday worship and more communing worshippers for our Wednesday 12:15 pm Chapel service. It's very possible that we might prayerfully begin to add one or two more small, in-person worship opportunities during the week, but again whatever we do will be led by embracing God's vision for us (as it should be in all things)!

St. Dallán's poem, *Be Thou My Vision* is a prayer that Christ will be our vision, our best thought, our presence, our light. It expresses faith in a God of ultimate power, whose wisdom and goodness encompasses past, present and future, a mystic

understanding of living each day closely connected to our God who dwells within us. The power of the words of this hymn is as timely in 2020 as they were in the 6<sup>th</sup> century as we pray to see the world through Christ's eyes, be opened to His vision for our worship, our church, and our community – made strong with a strength that comes from God.

Verse 4: High King of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

<https://youtu.be/ihJAJA4ibEs>

## Comfortable and Confident at St. John's

### *Our Plan for Re-entering Public Space*

By Angel Owens

As many of you know, we have started to re-enter public worship and open up certain areas of the church for public use. What are we doing to make sure you are comfortable and confident re-entering the church facilities?

#### ***We are "Thinking Small"***

We will continue to take advantage of our digital ministry, but as we are able to safely do so, we're meeting in smaller settings. For example, this fall you'll see "hybrid" classes that meet in-person AND via zoom. Our small groups begin on zoom until the group decides to begin meeting in-person. Our children's ministry will meet in-person in smaller groups once a month.

#### ***We are sanitizing and cleaning.***

Each space is cleaned thoroughly, including the use of a commercial disinfectant fogger used in each area after use to insure all surfaces are coated. Sanitizer is available throughout the church.

#### ***Masks are required.***

If you don't have a mask, one will be made available to you. All worship volunteers and leaders will have their temperatures checked before worship, and you may be asked to have yours checked too as a precaution.

#### ***We are practicing social distancing.***

Room occupancy is limited. You are asked to stay six feet apart at all times. Ushers will help seat you before worship. After worship, we'll dismiss by rows so you can feel comfortable keeping your distance as you exit.

#### ***We are sanitizing surfaces.***

To limit use of high contact surfaces, doors are opened before and after worship, and we will not be serving beverages during 9:27. Each office is equipped with disinfectant wipes to clean surfaces after use and after touching communal surfaces.

#### ***Communion***

You will be dismissed row by row so you can remain socially distant. The Pastor and Lay Assisting Minister will wear a mask and sanitize directly before distributing the elements. Wine is taken from individual disposable cups.

You aren't quite ready to return in-person yet? That is okay. There are still plenty of ways to engage digitally.

- 11 am Online Worship
- Virtual Senior Academy – see page 6
- Small Group Study Zoom – see page 7
- Kingdom Kids Facebook Live, Zoom, and Weekly Email – see page 4
- Virtual Choir. Contact [rob@stjohns-salisbury.org](mailto:rob@stjohns-salisbury.org)
- Online Giving
- Follow us on Social Media @stjsalisbury
- Subscribe to the weekly email, *FaithLife*

"G2G Pandemic Update," continued from page 1

where we are headed. I encourage you to take the time to read his article as it is full of good information.

**A Great Start!** As of Aug. 17, 2020, I am pleased to present to you the most up-to-date Campaign and Financial Reports:

G2G Phase 2 Pledges	
Potential Pledgers-Full Database	486
# of Pledges Received	178
# of Potential Pledgers Remaining	308
Value of Pledges Received	\$2,438,391
\$ from Pledges-In-Hand	\$1,030,746
Pledges to be received	\$1,407,645

As you can see from the chart above, with the payment of pledges beginning on May 1, 2020, we have already received \$1,030,746 of the pledges, leaving \$1,407,645 outstanding with 2 ¾ years remaining to fulfill the pledges. A great start!

**Additional Campaign Resources.** Of course, there is more to our financial report than just the campaign's success as we had a starting balance of \$612,455, thanks to those who made gifts to G2G Phase 2 before the campaign began, alongside additional income from memorial gifts. The chart to the right outlines total income and expenses for phase 2, as of Aug. 17, 2020. As you can see, available cash (gifts received prior to Dec 1, 2019) plus Pledge Campaign totals \$1,646,211.

**Expenses to date: \$107,985.** We have had some planning and design costs, along with expenses developing the building plans (ie. architect, engineering, and testing fees), leaving a cash fund balance of \$1,538,226. When that balance is added to the remaining pledges receivable, we get a current Total Cash Balance + Pledge Receivables of \$2,945,871 to support our Phase 2 projects.

**Tricky times and faithful response.** We have made a lot of headway during a very difficult time for our congregation family. The Steering Committee will continue to meet monthly to manage the projects. We will bring further news to you when appropriate. For now, we pray that you all stay safe and remain grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Project Balance	
11/30/19 Cash to Start *	\$612,455
+ Misc. Income (memorials, gifts)	\$3,010
+ \$ from Pledges In Hand	\$1,030,746
Balance Before Expenses	\$1,646,211
G2G Expenses (Dec 2019 — July 2020)	(\$107,985)
<b>Cash Balance After Expenses</b>	\$1,538,226
Pledges Receivable	\$1,407,645
Total Cash Balance + Pledge Receivables	<b>\$2,945,871</b>

## Major Gift Announced for CDC Project

In loving memory of their mom, Lorna Reasor, the Reasor children have made a \$100,000 gift to the CDC fence project and towards the renovation of the CDC kitchen, part of the phase 2 campaign.

Lorna was a passionate advocate of the CDC, as a member of the Rainbow Makers Team, which provided encouragement to teachers and parents.

"As I think about this much-needed fence, I can envision Lorna's arms wrapped around our kids," says Amy Ritchie, chair of the new Outdoor Learning Center team. "She always wanted to make sure they were safe and loved."

Lorna, 88, died of heart complications on July 11.

*Of Note: The Reasor gift is not reflected in the charts above.*

## G2G Phase 2 Project Status

By Mike Agee. *G2G Building Chair*

We are all facing challenging times with the coronavirus. The completion of the construction plans for the G2G Phase 2 project has been impacted, but thankfully a lot of behind-the-scenes work has continued throughout the pandemic.

Developing the construction plans requires the integration of mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with the design of the architects. Several groups and people are engaged in the process. The completion of these drawings is tentatively scheduled for the end of September.

We would then send the bid request package to selected general contractors for bids. The bid has been structured to allow the church flexibility in selecting bids based on budget. Based on priorities determined by the congregation, the base bid is focused on the kitchen, Fellowship Hall renovations, handicapped accessible restrooms on the lower level and core infrastructure such as HVAC unit replacement. Bid alternates will be for handicapped accessible restroom on the Sanctuary level, renovation of the music wing and renovations for the Child Development Center.

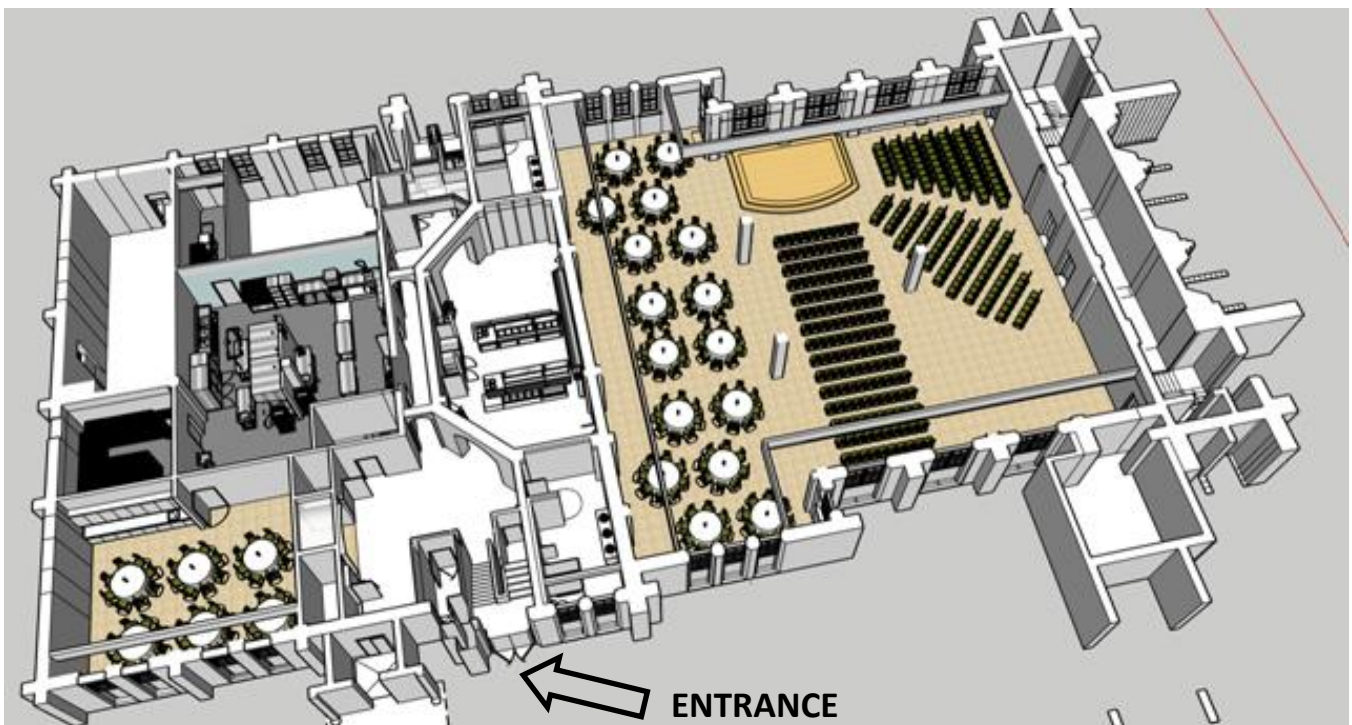
Due to the complexity of the project, the bidding companies would likely need four weeks to review and prepare

responses. Once the bids are returned, a general contractor would be selected, and we would roll up our sleeves and begin the process of "Value Engineering" to bring the project into budget. By having a general contractor on board, we can have their input, along with the subcontractors, to look for changes that could help reduce the cost of the project if necessary. This is the same process we used on the Phase 1 project. When a final cost is developed, the general contractor would submit a contract and the congregation would vote on proceeding.

Base bid: Renovations to the first level of the sanctuary building (below):

- Open the entrance lobby to the Fellowship Hall
- Relocate and expand the commercial kitchen to the old archives area
- Add two handicapped accessible restrooms
- Renovate the old kitchen and stage area to become a new serving area
- Renovate the Fellowship Hall with new ceiling, flooring, sound/video system, and relocate the stage area to the Church Street side of the building.
- Create a small group dining/meeting area to accommodate up to 50 participants.

*Continued...*





*Project status, continued from page 11.*

**Infrastructure Renovation.** As we approach the 100th anniversary of the sanctuary building in 2027, it's no surprise that significant infrastructure has to be replaced. Electrical work has been done throughout the years, but the additional electrical loads will require some upfitting. Plumbing and waste lines will be replaced to accommodate the new restrooms and kitchen.

The design of the heating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems will allow the building to be better managed by heating and cooling only the areas that are in use. As we have shared in the past, all the HVAC units are well past end-of-life. The base bids will include replacing the HVAC units in the building so we can reduce the overall cost as a package price. We have recently lost one of the units providing service to the Sanctuary. The unit will have to be replaced before we have large groups in the Sanctuary during cooling periods. Although the new units will be far more energy efficient, the current codes require a certain amount of outside air to be mixed with inside air. This provides fresh air for inside spaces that is particularly important for health considerations. However, it requires conditioning the outside air so the electrical loads for the new units are not greatly reduced.

**Additional Renovations.** The ceiling in the Fellowship Hall will be replaced and raised approximately 9 inches. We will reuse the LED fixtures already installed. New flooring will be installed as well.

The small dining area has been reduced slightly with the addition of a closet. The square footage of the room had to be reduced or an outside door would have to be added to meet code. The seating still meets our original objective, but is limited to less than 50 people. We originally planned to install a grease interceptor that is currently required for commercial kitchens, but not church kitchens, in case future requirements change. Instead, we will provision for the future by installing the lines to a location adjoining Church street, but we will not install the grease interceptor at this time to reduce cost.

Alternate Bids:

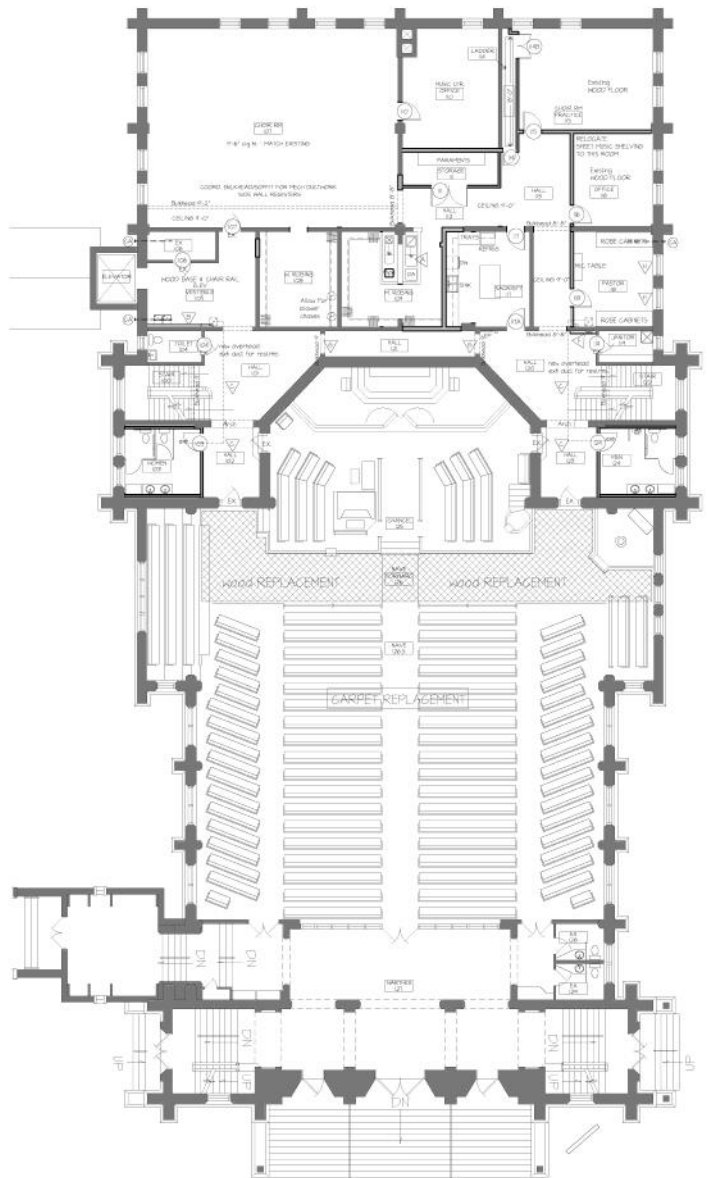
### Sanctuary/Music Wing

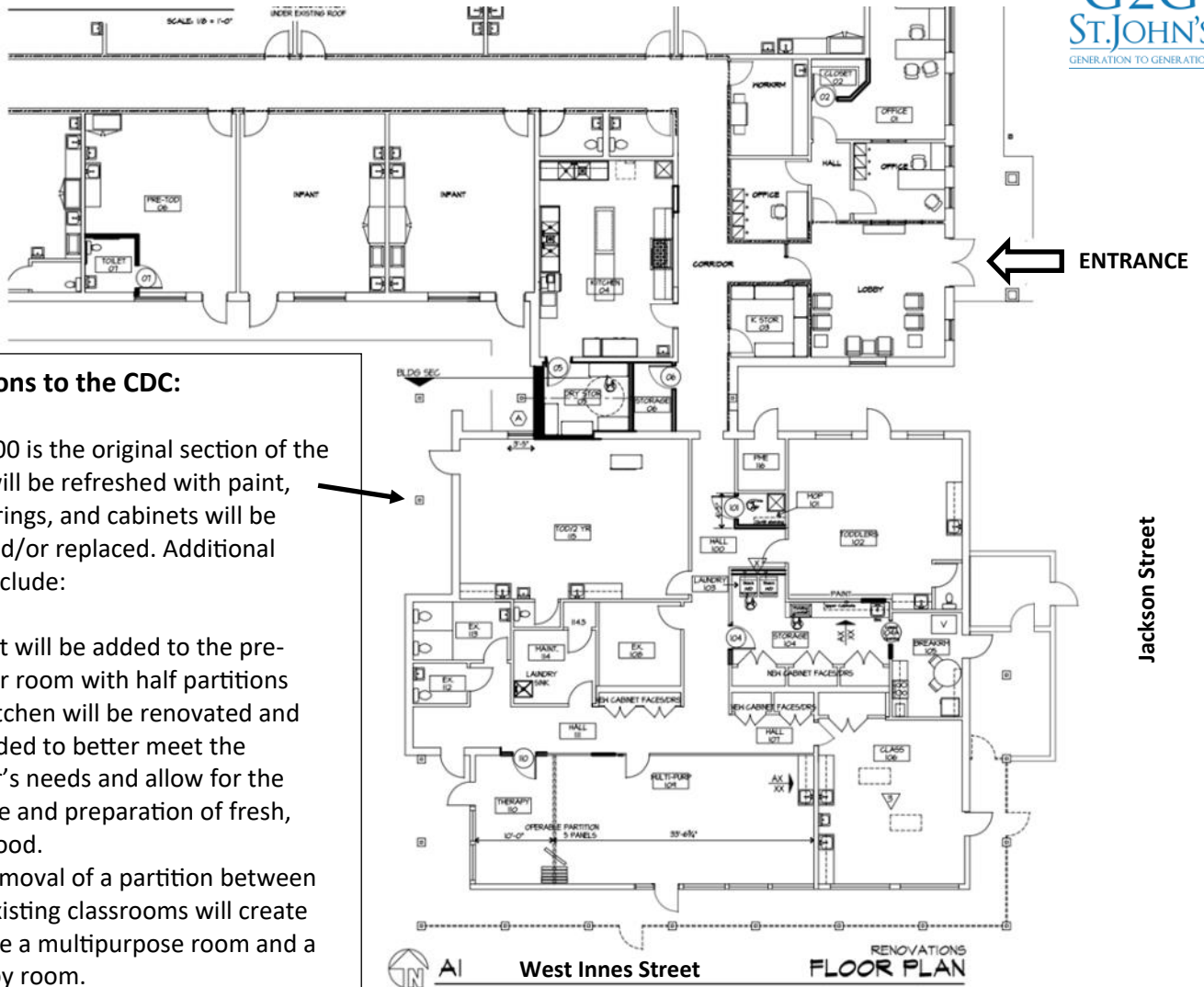
Design Include:

- Adding handicapped accessible restrooms
- Music wing renovations
- Replace the damaged wooden floor in the front of the sanctuary

Depending on available funds:

- Replace carpeting in the sanctuary and narthex
- Replace the sanctuary sound system





### Additional Comments

In preparation of the renovation of both buildings, a hazardous materials assessment has been conducted. The CDC has a small amount of asbestos in the old 100 building that will have to be removed prior to construction. Unfortunately, in the era when the Sanctuary building was constructed, asbestos was a common ingredient in many building materials. There are traces of asbestos and lead paint in most areas where construction will be done. The materials will have to be removed with a certified abatement company prior to construction.

*Of note: the materials pose no health risk to anyone in the building unless the fibers become airborne.*

### "Can we do work while the building is shut down?"

Yes and no. We'd love to begin work while the building is not in use, particularly the Sanctuary, including the removal of

carpet and a sound system that hangs 30' above floor level. Although we're doing our best to move quickly, two challenges are before us:

1. This is a complex project that takes time to evaluate the building, prepare the construction plans, and complete the bidding process. It remains to be seen if we can complete all the behind-the-scenes work prior to the building's return to "normal use."
2. While funding has been secured for the fellowship hall and kitchen projects, funding has not yet been secured to replace carpeting and the sound system. Once that funding is in place, we can move quickly to begin work replacing and installing new material.

We continue to appreciate all the members of our congregation who have helped develop the design and who continue to work toward moving this project forward.

# A Vision for Racial Justice

*A congregation-wide effort to develop a vision and a plan*

By Pastor Rhodes Woolly

We're in a most unusual time in our country's history, facing three major stress points at once: a pandemic, collapsing economy, and widespread protests and riots mostly focused on race and racial disparities.

And it's been hard to have civil conversation about any of it. As a country we're polarized, frustrated, and it seems we've turned everything into a political chess match, especially in the midst of more shootings, protests, and riots throughout the summer.

How should we respond as a faith community? Where can you ever *talk* about issues like these? Since 2016, we've been saying that the CHURCH is the best place for that kind of conversation – where people of many different backgrounds should be able to find a safe place for honest conversation, where we can respect each other and listen carefully to each other's opinions and ideas. Where we can begin from a place of peace, not anger. Love, not hate. Where we can learn together. Grow together.

It's important to note that the Bible never shies away from difficult conversation, especially when the issues have anything to do with mercy and justice. That's why we've chosen to talk openly and honestly about race. In particular, we want to focus on one question: *What is our vision for racial justice at St. John's?* In other words, as we look into the

future – say 5, 10 years down the road -- what do we want St. John's to look like when it comes to race and racial justice? What do we want this congregation to care about? What do we want to be a part of?

I know it feels like a political conversation, but it's not. Neither is it a competition over who's right and wrong. After all, no one person has all the answers. We're wanting to learn from each other and ultimately find places of consensus where all of us can agree, saying "Yea, that's where St. John's needs to be in the future."

But, as Stan Jordan rightly said last week, "We have to make sure everyone is unconditionally accepted into the conversation. Hearing all voices is crucial."

Please, if you don't feel that you're welcomed into the conversation, please let me know. I'd love to sit down and learn from you. It's our absolute best way to develop a Vision that everyone can embrace.

## Next Steps

Our next step is to gather all of the information from the survey and Town Hall to form a draft Vision for Racial Justice. We'll make the draft available for review and gather again for more input. There's no timeline, only a sincere desire to develop a Vision that guides us along the path God has chosen. Join us!

## Other Ways to Learn, Grow, Converse



It's a simple process: Each week we'll amplify a voice from the BIPOC community, give time for participants to listen intently, and then ask: "What did I learn?" Pastor Rhodes leads the zoom study each Wednesday evening from 8-9 pm. The zoom link will be emailed out in the weekly FaithLife. Or contact the church office for the recurring link.

## Racial Justice Resources

Our website includes a variety of resources that highlight the history and complexity of racial justice, including books, movies, documentaries, TED talks and other educational resources. Visit St. John's website and select "Conversations that Matter" under the *Resources* tab.

## Book Study

Danny Hines has been leading a zoom study of the book, *Dear Church*. The book, written by a Black pastor in the ELCA, addresses hard truths that "the whitest denomination in America" must address, along with every-day challenges to being a racially sensitive church. Once completed, the group will choose a new book to study, also by zoom. Contact Danny if you're interested in joining in.





## Remembering Pastor Doug Fritz

### 1927-2020

The Rev. Douglas Fritz, D.D., of Savannah, Ga., died July 28, 2020, at the age of 93. Pastor Fritz served St. John's from Dec. 1, 1963 to Oct. 13, 1974, a

tumultuous time in the life of the country.

"Dad began at St. John's the Sunday after Kennedy was assassinated," remembers Robert, the oldest of the Fritz's two children. "He announced his resignation just a few weeks after Nixon's resignation. Those were most unusual years."

In spite of — or perhaps because of — Fritz's tenure marked an important era for the congregation. Perhaps most significantly, he was an integral part of the committee which raised funds to buy land and build the chapel and education building, dedicated Dec. 31, 1967.

One of the committee members was Charles Wallace, the father of Kay Coltrain.

"My father worked hard on that building committee, and there was the same kind of excitement as we had for the Faith Center," Kay remembers. "A lot of love and good work went into it."

She adds, "We liked Pastor Fritz a lot. He and Anne were an attractive and dignified couple."

Glenn Ketner Jr. agrees.

"Doug and Anne were great friends of my parents, and friends to Susan and me," he says. "Doug baptized our son, Bo. We thought very highly of them. He was an excellent minister and a good leader for St. John's."

During his 34 years in ordained ministry, Fritz served churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee. He was a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne, where he served on the Board of Trustees and received an honorary doctorate.

He and his wife, Anne, who preceded him in death, retired to Columbia in 1980 before moving to Savannah in 2008. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Fritz is survived by two sons, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A private family service was held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Columbia.



*The 1967 Building Committee. From Left are: Charles Wallace, Glenn Ketner, Sr., the Rev. R. D. Fritz, Gregory Peeler, John H. Isenhour, Sr., and Robert E. Carmichael.*

## Council Nominations due Sept. 15

*Interested in serving on our Congregation Council for the next 3 years? Nominations are being accepted through September 15. Forms are available through the website or by contacting the church office. Many thanks to those God is calling to into leadership at St. John's!*

# Tonya German, Principal of East Rowan High School, on Connecting Faith and Life During this New School Year

By Susan Shinn Turner

Tonya German had a smile on her face Aug. 17, the first day of school. “It was a great, smooth start,” says German, the principal of East Rowan High School. “Just different.”

By different, she means that 385 students attend school on A day, two days a week, and 385 attend on B day. The other three days a week, they are virtual learners. Meanwhile, more than 250 students have chosen to take all classes virtually.

“When we left in March, we had to turn on a dime to make it happen,” German explains. “Now you’re managing students who are virtual, and those who are face-to-face two days a week, then virtual the other three days. We are still building relationships and making connections. Let’s get connected and learn to operate, with safety first.”

This is German’s 23rd year in education. She received a biology degree from Appalachian State and taught for 13 years, with stints at Vance High School in Charlotte, South Rowan High School, and Mount Pleasant High School. She was a science specialist for three years at Horizons Unlimited.

“I really loved my job at Horizons,” she notes, “but I really missed being in a school, working directly with the same set of students and teachers. That’s why I was inspired to go into administration. I just felt there was a piece missing.”

German also has a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a master’s degree in school administration from ASU.

She served as an assistant principal at Knox Middle School and as principal at Corriher-Lipe Middle School before taking the helm at East four years ago.

“I wasn’t quite finished with my administration degree when Pastor Rhodes told me, ‘Knox is looking for an assistant principal. Have you thought about it?’” German says. “We were on a mission trip to New York City and I was around the kids for a whole week. I decided to turn in my resume and see what would happen. You’ve got to have courage to take that step.”



Since this is her fourth year at East, the seniors who are graduating were her first group of freshmen, she notes.

**On her faith.** German says she prays for guidance before entering the building each morning. “I do think people are able to see my faith in my work,” she says. “I’m trying to do what’s best to lead students to success. They test me all the time, just like we get tested in our faith; but I too respond with love.”

She laughs, “People say there’s no God in schools. Yeah, there is. I feel his presence all the time.”

Away from school, German enjoys being with her family and extended family, many of whom are also St. John’s members.

“One way I balance my life as a principal is that I know on Sundays that’s the time I commit to going to church and going to lunch with my family,” she says. “About 20 of us gather for lunch at my grandmother’s house.”

German and her husband, Daniel, have two daughters, Caylynn Westberg, 21, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Bella, 11, a sixth-grader at Erwin Middle School.

“I went into education because I had teachers who pushed me to do my best,” German says, “and because I saw what a difference education can make in one’s life. It can be a game changer for you — and nobody can take it away from you.”

# Luke Brown Accepts Position as Principal at Mooresville High

By Susan Shinn Turner

As principal of Salisbury High School since 2014, Luke Brown wasn't looking for a new position. But then a friend told him that the principalship of Mooresville High School had come open, and, after talking with his wife, Elissa, he decided to apply.

Now, Brown is principal of Mooresville High School, with 1,900 students and a staff of 200.

"It's going pretty well," Brown says with the first day of school behind him. Students are attending virtually for the first nine weeks. "It's definitely unusual. I'm learning teachers' names and faces from the nose up. We had a great first day."

To get to know students, Brown has hosted video conferences and a virtual open house. He did a 30-minute Q&A via livestream, which was well attended.

"It's very strange how we're getting to know each other," Brown notes. "Slowly but surely, we are. The staff was ready to get started, and we'll make the best of it."

Mooresville High School is the only high school in the Mooresville Graded School District. The district serves more than 6,000 students in grades K-12 across eight schools. It is a Top 10 school district in North Carolina in academic achievement.



By comparison, Salisbury High School has about 900 students, according to Brown. "It never really crossed my mind to look anywhere else. I enjoyed my time at Salisbury High School and loved the students. At the same time, I have always been impressed with Mooresville and what they had done. I talked with my wife and we decided, why not apply?"

He adds, "Things felt really good and the questions were well thought out. It is a really good fit and a good opportunity for our family."

Brown will commute for now to allow his son, Noah, 13, to finish eighth grade at Erwin Middle School. His son, Mason, 9, is a fourth-grader at Granite Quarry Elementary School. Elissa is a school nurse with Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

Brown says he doesn't mind the commute. "It allows me to gear up on the way to school and gear down on the way home. But I want to be active in the community like I was in Salisbury."

At St. John's, Brown has been a member of the 9:27 production team and a singer/bassist with the 9:27 band.

Away from school, he enjoys playing video games and golf with his sons.

## Congratulations to New Isenberg Principal Nick Anderson

*On-site Volunteering Postponed*



Congratulations to Nick Anderson, newly appointed principal at Isenberg Elementary School, replacing Marvin Moore, who was selected as the new principal at Salisbury High School.

St. John's has a rich partnership with Isenberg thanks to our third grade reading program. Although volunteers are not yet allowed on school campuses, be on the look out for other ways to help our schools during this most unusual school year.



### Congratulations to Amber Lawson: *North Carolina's Outstanding Biology Teacher Award*



Amber Lawson

coming to Salisbury High.

Congratulations to Amber Lawson, who recently received the National Association of Biology Teachers' Outstanding Biology Teacher Award for the state of North Carolina.

Lawson is in her 20th year of teaching at Salisbury High School, where she has taught biology for 17 years. She has a degree in biology from Meredith College, and taught for one year at West Rowan Middle School before

Lawson will receive microscopes and lab kits from Carolina Biological Supply and a complimentary one-year membership from the National Association of Biology Teachers.

"I love to instill the love of learning in my students," Lawson says. Her favorite topics to teach are DNA and cell analysis, since students really seem to enjoy both of those areas, she says.

Salisbury added AP biology about 15 years ago, Lawson says, and she particularly enjoys teaching that course. "Those are the students who want to go into biology in college. They have told me they are well prepared and don't have to study because they remember what they learned in high school. Those are sweet moments for you as a teacher."

She's the daughter of Jim Benton and the late Barbara Benton, and the daughter-in-law of Jerry and Fran Lawson, all of whom are St. John's members.

"I've always loved living organisms," Lawson notes. "I walk at least an hour a day and love looking at things all around me."

In high school, Lawson most enjoyed chemistry, but in college a professor stimulated her love of biology. She went with that same professor to Russia to study plants on the tundra.

In February, Lawson received notification that she had been nominated for the award by a parent and student. She turned in five letters of recommendation, plus a 1,000-word essay on her philosophy of teaching. She also had to submit videos of her lessons.

Just as she was returning to school for the new school year, she learned she had won the award.

"That was exciting, especially coming back into such hard times," she says.

Away from school, Lawson enjoys gardening, cooking, walking, hiking, and family time.

She and her husband, Ryan, have two children, Abby, 15, a sophomore at Salisbury, and Ben, a seventh-grader at Salisbury Academy.

Congratulations, Amber!



Amber Lawson's class Skyping a scientist to learn how he conducts research at his University, showing different careers in science, the program is called Skype a Scientist.

---

## Our Latest “Conversations that Matter” Podcast

*Pastor Rhodes Interviews Adrienne Martin and Debbie Martin Purpur*

Have you subscribed to the St. John’s “Conversations that Matter” podcast yet?

In September, we continue our celebration of the 50th anniversary of ordination of women in the Lutheran Church with an interview with Pastor Adrienne Martin and her mom, Debbie Martin Purpur.

Pastor Rhodes writes: “Join us this month for an inspiring, funny, and brutally honest glimpse into the life of a pastor’s family.” You don’t want to miss it.

Listen to the full conversation by searching “Conversations that Matter” on Apple Podcast, iHeart Radio, Spotify and more.

You can also catch up on past sermons on the SJLC Sermon Podcast Channel. Search “SJLC,” and don’t forget to rate and subscribe!



*Coming in October: Pastor Rhodes interviews ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Released October 1.*



## Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Currently, LDR is responding to:

- Hurricane Laura
- California wildfires
- The Derecho storm in the midwest
- COVID-19
- and much more ...

Because the ELCA covers all administrative expenses of the LDR, you can be confident that every dollar you give goes to direct relief assistance. Give online at [elca.org](http://elca.org).

## The Sudan Rowan Dream Continues

By Karen Puckett

Sudan Rowan continues to thrive. Conceived at St. John's thirteen year ago, this nonprofit 501(c)(3) continues to partner with various groups and organizations in order to maintain two schools serving 900 students from three South Sudanese villages.

Sudan Rowan's primary partner, Charlotte-based Mothering Across Continents, manages ground operations for both the Gumriak and Nyarweng primary schools in Ruweng State, South Sudan. This partnership, called Raising South Sudan, secures funding and support for teacher salaries, teacher training, books and materials, meals, and student uniforms.

Grants and other achievements during 2019-2020 include:

- March 2019: \$2,500 from St. John's Endowment Fund towards construction of a water well at Nyarweng school and to cover costs (gift cards and prizes for art and writing contest) associated with the Walk for Wisdom event sponsored by various Rowan-Salisbury schools
- April 2019: \$200 from Salisbury Kiwanis for student refreshments for Walk for Wisdom event
- April 2019: \$3000 in funds raised by area schools (NRHS, NRMS, Rowan Early College, Isenberg) sent to South Sudan for Nyarweng water well
- May 2019: \$1000 from Sims Family Foundation toward college scholarship for S. Sudanese college student studying in Kenya
- October 2019: \$950 from St. John's Lutheran Endowment Fund for college scholarship for S. Sudanese college student studying in Kenya
- October 2019: \$35,000 from St. Luke's Endowment Fund for a roof and desks at the Gumriak school.
- March 2020: \$1,500 from St. John's Endowment Fund for scholarships for 10 Aliap students attending Gumriak primary school.
- April 2020: \$7,800 from St. Luke's Foundation for scholarships for 52 Aliap students attending

Gumriak primary school

- May 2020: \$1,000 from Sims Family Foundation to Gumriak and Nyarweng schools to assist with food costs due to COVID19

Economic hardships continue in South Sudan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. High inflation rates affect food and school supply costs. Thus, schools will be cancelled nationwide through the end of 2020, reopening in January of 2021. Twenty teachers were paid through the end of June. Funds are being pursued to maintain smaller financial compensation for teachers and staff until school resumes.

With additional funding being requested of donors and foundations, upper grade teachers will have an opportunity to earn salaries for professional development and to teach 7th and 8th grade students who are preparing for national exams. The hope is to acquire tablets preloaded with core content resources, generators for charging the devices in the rural areas, and a desktop computer and printer to be used to print materials.

Donations to this ministry can be sent to Sudan Rowan at 576 Adrian Road, Salisbury, NC 28146; online at <https://tinyurl.com/SouthSudanMinistry>; or through checks made directly to St. John's with "Sudan Rowan" in the memo.



*15 students who began their primary education through Raising South Sudan were admitted to secondary school - a huge honor in South Sudan! These include five female and ten male students who had been sent to study in the capital city of Juba, but had to return home to Ruweng State due to COVID19. Teachers have been enlisted to work with these students to help maintain their academic skills until they can return to high school.*





Several years ago, a generous member of St. John's provided funding for a community well. Using those funds, Raising South Sudan has maintained a well near the Nyarweng school. Unfortunately, that well is no longer functional and \$10,000 in funds has been raised to construct a new well. An additional \$10,000 is still needed in order to complete the well's construction.

The Nyarweng community currently struggles in its quest for clean water, risking exposure to dangerous parasites through the drinking of water that isn't potable. Some members of the Nyarweng community have provided funds to transport fresh well water from distant wells using donkeys. However, this is not sustainable and a new well is sorely needed.

---

## The Other Side of the Wall

### *Pastor Munther Isaac Publishes New Book*

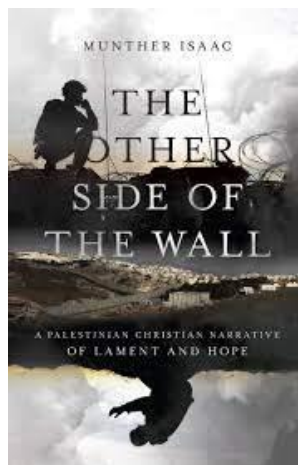
The Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, recently published a book, *The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Narrative of Lament and Hope*.

Published by InterVarsity Press (IVP), the book is available on Amazon.

#### **A summary from the publisher:**

**Christians have lived in Palestine since the earliest days of the Jesus movement.** The Palestinian church predates Islam. Yet Palestinian Christians find themselves marginalized and ostracized. In the heated tensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the voices of Palestinian Christians are often unheard and ignored.

*This book provides an opportunity to hear the realities of life on the ground from a leading Palestinian pastor and theologian. Munther Isaac gives the perspective of Palestinian Christians on the other side of the separation*



wall surrounding most Palestinian West Bank cities today. Isaac laments the injustices suffered by the Palestinian people but holds out hope for a just peace and ways to befriend and love his Jewish and Muslim neighbors. In contrast to the dominant religious and nationalistic ideologies and agendas for the region, he offers a theology of the land and a vision for a shared land that belongs to God, where there are no second-class citizens of any kind.

"This book is my invitation to you," Isaac writes, "to step into the other side of the wall and listen to our stories and perspective. It is my humble request to you to allow me to share how Palestinians experience God, read the Bible, and have been touched and liberated by Jesus—a fellow Bethlehemite who has challenged us to see others as neighbors and love them as ourselves. . . . This book paints a picture of our story of faith, lament, and hope. And I invite you to join and listen, on our side of the wall."

**Of special note:** Later this year, Pastor Isaac will guide members of St. John's on a 4-week study of the book. More information to come.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the Rev. Jason Huebner, who has recently accepted a new call to serve as pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Southport, NC. Jason was the youth director at St. John's until 2010, when he began seminary in Columbia. He most recently served as pastor of St. James in Rockwell.



Congratulations, Jason!



Congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Carl Sachtleben and the Rev. Dr. David Nelson. Carl is observing his 50th year in ordained ministry this year, while David is observing his 60th year in ordained ministry.

Normally, these milestones are celebrated at the annual Synod Assembly, but this year, Bishop Tim Smith invites us to celebrate virtually.

Pastors Carl and David, God's blessings to you both!

## St. John's Leadership

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2020 President .... Cindy Fink  
2021 President-elect .... Mike Edwards  
Vice President .... Rosalind Hines  
Secretary .... David Phillips  
Treasurer .... Tommy Page  
Financial Secretary...Cory Gebhardt  
Personnel Secretary ... Jeanie Moore

#### Term Expires 2020

Larry Cesario  
Cindy Fink  
David Phillips  
Wesley Rhyne  
Aleksandr (Sacha) Witt

#### Term Expires 2021

Randy Overcash  
David Hord  
Mike Agee  
Mary Wymbs  
Larry Britt

#### Term Expires 2022

Christopher Derrick  
Mike Edwards  
Penny Moss  
Dennis Rogers  
Rosalind Hines

#### Youth Members

Grace Shafer and Elizabeth Jones

#### Benevolent Foundation Trustees

John Henderlite, Chair  
Chip Bridges  
Chris Agner  
Margaret Kluttz  
John Denker

### MINISTRY GROUP STAFF CONTACTS

Worship and the Arts – Rob Durocher  
Discipleship – Pastor Laura Henrik  
Mercy and Justice – Pastor Rhodes Woolly  
Congregational Life – Diane Poole  
Stewarding God's Resources – Ruth Ann Diehl



Remembering my brother, John Robison's passing, with your cards, telephone calls and prayers has touched my heart at this sad time.

My deepest thanks,  
Barbara Robison Waggoner

---

I am so appreciative of all the calls, emails, cards, and gifts of food during my recovery. I am doing well and I know that it's answered prayers.

Thank you,

Diane Poole,  
Director of Senior Adult Ministry

## Happy Birthday!

*Congratulations to our Octogenarians  
celebrating September birthdays:*

Joyce Brady, William Cline, Dave Foreman, Pat O'Neal,  
Shirley Smith, Fran Tannehill

## Consolation

Karl and Rosemary Kinard ask for prayers for comfort and healing. Karl's granddaughter, Kathryn Kinard Howard and husband Jeremy, are mourning the loss of their newborn son, who died soon after his birth in early August. Kathryn's parents are Olaf and Beth Kinard, and this precious baby was their first grandchild and Karl's first great-grandchild.

To Karen South Jones, whose sister, Donna South, passed away on Sunday, Aug. 2.

To the family of the Rev. R. Douglas Fritz, D.D., who passed away on Tuesday, July 28. Pastor Fritz served as senior pastor of St. John's in the 1960s. Memorial gifts may be made to LRU/Southern Seminary.

To Nancy Lippard and family, on the passing of Sonny Lippard on Saturday, Aug. 22.

To Mickey and Betty Black on the passing of their son, Robert Black on Monday, Aug. 17.

## Baptism

Hank Michaelac, son of Sara and Russell Michaelac, was baptized Saturday, Aug. 1. Hank is the grandson of Nancy Shirley.

Victoria Higinia Rivera was baptized in the sanctuary Tuesday morning, Aug. 18. Mrs. Rivera is Jonny Black's mother and Trixie Martin's mother-in-law.



## St. John's Ministry Staff

### Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor .....Rhodes Woolly  
Pastor of Youth and Discipleship.....Laura Henrik  
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

### Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon  
Associate Parish Musician.....Rosemary Kinard  
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon  
Director, St. John's Men's Chorus..... Jason Harwood  
Assisting Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner  
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins  
Contemporary Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut

### Program Ministry

Adults.....Danny Hines  
Children.....Stacey Shafer  
Youth .....Laura Henrik  
Senior Adults .....Diane Poole  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) .....Teresa Stoner  
Child Development Center (infant –age 4 and after school).....

### Administrative Team

Business Manager .....Ruth Ann Diehl  
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross  
Accounting.....Mark Bias  
Communications Specialist ..... Angel Owens  
Writer .....Susan Shinn Turner  
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe  
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M Smith, Bishop of the NC Synod  
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

### The best way to contact staff at this time is by email.

Staff Email: first name@stjohns-salisbury.org  
Visit us on the web at stjohns-salisbury.org  
Kindergarten 704.636.4404  
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org  
Child Development Center 704.636.6756  
cdc@stjohns-salisbury.org  
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org

### Office hours

The office building is closed while church staff members work from home.

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-5 pm; Friday 9-12.  
Telephone 704.636.3431; Fax 704.636.4461

### Worship During Covid-19 Restrictions

Online worship Sundays at 11 am  
Contemporary Worship Sundays at 9:27 am in the Faith Center  
Mid-week Communion Service, Wednesdays at 12:15 pm in the Chapel

Visit stjohns-salisbury.org and click "listen live,"  
watch on Facebook Live, or search "SJLC" on YouTube

Listen to worship each Sunday morning at 11 am on stjohns-salisbury.org, and click Listen Live. Listen to previous week's service at 9 am Sunday on WSAT 1280 AM.

### EAGLE'S VIEW (USPS 716—020)

is published once a month by St. John's Lutheran Church  
200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144  
Vol. 20, Issue 9  
Periodical postage paid at Salisbury, North Carolina

POSTMASTER: Send address change to  
EAGLE'S VIEW, 200 W. Innes Street, Salisbury, NC 28144

**Please deliver by Sept. 5**

### Eagle's View Deadline

The October Eagle's View will be published in September.  
Please email stories and news to  
angel@stjohns-salisbury.org by **September 11!**

### On Call List

If there is a pastoral emergency, please call **704.856.9751** to reach the pastor on call.

**Prayer Chain.** Our Prayer Chain is updated daily and emailed to interested persons Monday through Friday. To add or subtract a name, please contact Deborah Cross at deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org. Also let Deborah know if you would like to receive the daily Prayer Chain.



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