

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

June 2016

CAVE QUEST

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24, 2016 – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Before and after care available



Everyone participating in the Vacation Bible School program “Cave Quest” will have an amazing Bible-based adventure. Each day, the Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station’s activities. There is a Bible Story for each day as we follow Jesus.

- ➔ Monday - Jesus gives us hope. Prophets foretell the light of the world (John 1:1-34, Isaiah 9:2)
- ➔ Tuesday - Jesus gives us courage. Jesus and Peter walk on water (Matthew 14:22-36)
- ➔ Wednesday - Jesus gives us direction. Jesus sheds light on how to live (Matthew 5-7)
- ➔ Thursday - Jesus gives us love. Jesus dies and comes back to life (Luke 23:1 – 24:12)
- ➔ Friday - Jesus gives us his power. Jesus ascends and empowers his followers (Acts 1:1-11)

Everyone will experience adventures daily in Sing and Play Rock Camp (in Trinity Hall), Kid-Vid Cinema, and Imagination Station. They will participate in Cool Crafts, Deep Bible Quests, and Recreation and Snack as we provide nourishment for the hands, mind, and body throughout the week.

Teens and adults are invited to sign up as we still need some leadership: recreation games, Friday picnic, and two crews need shepherds. There are still openings for photographers, snack helpers, and morning leadership. Even if you can’t be here the whole week – we’d love to have you with us. Work days to decorate will take place on the weekends prior to VBS. Watch for details on days and times. Snack item lists will be in the bulletins in the coming weeks. The children (and adults) work and play hard and we try and give healthy snacks mid-mornings.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Joseph O'Donnell, Vicar

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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FROM THE PASTOR...

I saw this on Facebook and decided it was worth sharing:

Scarcity thinking

“there will never be enough”

Competes to stay on top
Hoards things from others
Won't share knowledge
Won't offer help to others
Suspicious of others
Resents competition
Afraid of being replaced
Believes times are tough
Believes the pie is shrinking
Thinks small and avoids risk
Fears change

Abundance thinking

“there will always be more”

Collaborates to stay on top
Generous with others
Shares knowledge
Freely offers help to others
Trusts and builds rapport
Welcomes competition
Strives to grow
Believes the best is yet to come
Believes the pie is growing
Thinks big and embraces risk
Takes ownership of change

John 14:27 - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

God has given us dominion over creation and calls us to trust in Him and have no fear. My prayer for St. Paul's is that we will be Abundant thinkers and have no fear.

Pastor Scott Anderson

FROM THE VICAR...

Preaching the Gospel with Silence

May brought us the final session of Bold Like Jesus, where a group from churches throughout the state learned to participate in a community of discerning God's word that would ultimately lead to sharing God's word. The word, “Evangelical” is constitutionally part of the name of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, a word that at its roots means, “sharing good news.” We are also at the

threshold of summer, a time when there is a great deal of travel and when we should be reminded in our travels that, just like each Sunday, God is the one sending us. And while it might seem as though it has been going on forever already, we are only now finally coming to the beginning of the General Presidential Election. One in which, undoubtedly, given events in the public eye in the last year or two, the topic of race will play a role.

Race and the role it plays every day in our lives, whether we are aware of it or not, has been the topic of many conversations. Among Lutheran clergy, several prominent articles have been circulating after one of the ELCA's seminaries hosted a panel on the topic of “Justification,” in which all of the experts were white males, and a black Lutheran professor was excluded.

Responses to these issues have been more diverse than the crowd making them. Unlike St. Paul's which is markedly diverse for a Lutheran church, the ELCA as whole remains one of the least diverse denominations in the country. And many have been asking why, and what we might do. How do we share the good news; how do we lift up scripture like Galatians 3:28, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus?”

James H. Cone, author of a collection of books on black theology, has suggested that it is impossible for those who are not “people of color,” to speak against racism in the world. When I first read this, I was shocked and annoyed. The problem, he explains, is that those who are in the majority and with whom people who hold power share physical similarity already have voices that are heard. For a white person to advocate for black rights, or a man to advocate for women's rights, still suggests that those people of color need a white person to speak for them, or that those women need a man to speak for them.

But I want to do something. Just as I'm sure many of you feel, it's an issue that to me is too serious, too important, for me to simply sit back and do nothing. But it leaves me with the dilemma, if I am sent to share the good news, how can I do so without overpowering the voices of others who need to be heard, when even a whisper from me, as a white male, is louder than the cries and screams of so many others.

And then I am reminded of the words attributed to St. Francis, “Preach the gospel always, and if necessary, use words.”

What makes this expression so meaningful is that it speaks to the power of presence. It reminds us that being there, even in silence, is more meaningful than any words we could possibly share. Our presence

means more than the most perfectly crafted speech or argument. After all, isn't that the role that Christ plays in most of our own lives? I don't hear Jesus's voice, but his presence means a great deal more.

And our silent presence can proclaim that there is a voice greater than us that needs to be heard. And again, the best example of this is Christ. No matter how skilled or masterful our grasp of language becomes, it is not our message that we proclaim, but it is the good news of Jesus Christ. And sometimes that news sounds better through the voice of others.

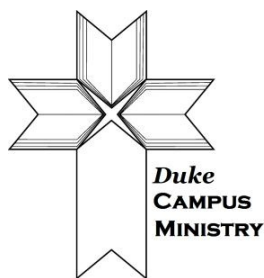
May we all remember that wherever we travel, to the store or across the sea, it is God sending us. And that we proclaim the gospel with our presence, whether we speak aloud or stand behind those who need to be heard.

Vicar Joseph O'Donnell

Duke Lutherans Update

by Cindy Snyder, Chair

Duke Lutheran Campus Ministry Committee



As the 2015-16 academic

year for the Duke Lutherans comes to an end and we enter the time after Pentecost in the church calendar, I reflect on how the many ways that the Holy Spirit has guided us. Ashley Acken was previously a Duke Divinity School Field

Worker with Duke Lutherans and continued to lead the ministry this past year, bringing some much needed continuity. Ashley's creativity in leading worship during her first year reinforced that Christ is the center of our gatherings, and her one-on-one outreach with students helped to build the community.

Ali Tranvik worked with Duke Lutherans this year as a Field Worker and shared her skills as a worship leader and coordinator of the Faith in Everyday Life lecture and discussion series. She and Ali worked well together, welcoming new students, lifting up the contributions of students who helped with worship with playing the piano and beautiful singing, and planning a wonderful graduation celebration.

We are proud of Ashley, who has graduated with a Masters of Divinity, and will be starting her chaplain residency through the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Duke Medical Center. The residency program is a one year full-time position that is her next step to becoming a chaplain or a CPE supervisor. She

is also going through the diaconal ministry roster for consecration in the ELCA and St. Paul's is supporting her in that process. While in Durham, she and Josh will continue to be members of St. Paul's.

Ali inspires us as she and her husband, Isak, a PhD student in Political Science, take part in a Duke Divinity School Field Education internship in Tijuana, Mexico. They'll be living and working at La Casa del Migrante, a shelter and hospitality house for migrants and deportees. The house provides legal assistance, medical care, job training, food, and shelter for about 150 Latino men. Ali and Isak are looking forward to working on their Spanish, learning about immigration, and serving their neighbors in new ways. They will return to Durham for Ali to complete her final year at Duke Divinity School and then pursue ordination.

We have seen the Holy Spirit working through Ali and Ashley, and we wish them well on their new spiritual and life journeys. God's presence is manifest in the many ways that the St. Paul's and Grace Lutheran communities have supported the ministry. Thanks be to God!

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



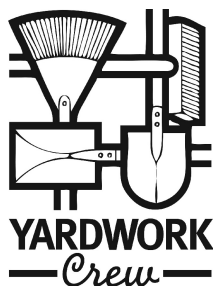
We have just wrapped up another great school year at the preschool. Our six preschool classes included 53 total children and eight teachers! This ministry is flourishing at St. Paul's

because of the incredible support we have from our church family at St. Paul's and the glorious space downstairs. This year we also welcomed families from seven different countries and learned about many new cultures. Our preschool is becoming more diverse as word of our preschool ministry spreads throughout the Durham community.

St. Paul's will once again be offering six weeks of summer camp this summer for children 2-5 years old. We have a total of 37 children attending summer camp! Our summer themes include Camping, Construction, Summertime, Fairy Tales, Music and Messy Camp. We are also continuing enrollment for the fall. We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. Please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Here – in God’s Garden

by George Seiz



Great progress has been made with plant care around the St. Paul’s campus. With the effort of 26 volunteers for the April 23 Outdoor Work Day event about 75 cubic yards of mulch was spread in various planting areas and about 4 cubic yards of topsoil added at the Memorial Garden. Many folks have noticed the remarkable results of this effort and have passed on positive comments to me and others. A “team photo” of those involved can be found in the new directory. A sincere thank you to the following participants:

John Foreman	Audrey Busch
Mike Mauriello	Dick Clendaniel
Nancy Anderson	Audrey Busch
Tracey and Brian Dissel	Curt Hahn
Rachel Harter	Charlie Bock
Doug Whitfield	Tom Meier
Vicar Joseph O’Donnell	Maria and Curtis Chi
Pastor Scott Anderson	Janet and George Seiz
Jayce Hahn-Getz, Heekyoung Hahn & Adsila Getz	
Marilyn Hawley and grandson Aiden	
Marcia and Dean Redman	

We have several members who diligently provide continued plant care throughout the week and a group of volunteers who periodically work on Saturday mornings to supplement this work. These workers include:

Nancy Anderson	Audrey Busch
Robin Winfree	Curt Hahn
Jim Shoaf	Tracey Dissel
Curtis Chi	Doug Whitfield
Kim Hoke	Tom Kraska
Ted Dominick	

If you would like to be part of this outdoor ministry, please contact George Seiz at geoseiz@aol.com, 919-824-0130 or visit with me on Sunday mornings. The group typically meets on Saturday mornings from roughly 9 am till 11 am depending on work load and weather. Some members work individually throughout the week. **You don’t need to be there every Saturday and hours are flexible.** As noted before this is a chance to: *be a good steward of the earth; build community; do something with a friend or family member; take pride in your accomplishments; get some exercise; have some fun.*

Marilyn Hawley Goes to Fiji

by Marilyn Hawley



I am overwhelmed by the opportunity to help our Fijian brothers and sisters build homes for themselves this summer.

I have been selected to join the Habitat for Humanity

International Global Village Team to Fiji Islands on a mission trip led by Lutheran Pastor, Paul Erbes, June 22 - July 5, 2015.

Habitat began work in Fiji in 1991. Since then, Habitat has helped over 1,000 families build homes and hope through a wide range of projects including disaster prevention and recovery and water sanitation. Our volunteer team are eleven members strong from throughout the US who have committed to this challenge in response to the growing need for decent, safe and affordable housing on Fiji. We will be working along with families whose combined household incomes are less than \$25.00 a week. Just as Habitat requires homeowners to help build their own homes here in the US, the same is required for international builds. I have always enjoyed hearing the joy and determination expressed by homeowners when I’ve worked with families here in Durham. I am looking forward to that experience in Fiji.

As a multi-cultural, multi-racial nation, Fiji is represented by all major religions of the world, with more than half of its over 900,000 population being Christian.

The official languages are Fijian, Hindi and English, with English used most frequently.

Fiji is a cluster of more than 300 islands, of which only about 110 are inhabited, located in the South Pacific. It is about the same size as the US states of Hawaii or New Jersey, with a tropical climate. The country’s economy depends primarily on tourism, with sugarcane being the principal cash crop.

Yes, Fiji is that island that was hit by Cyclone Winston back in February, a Category 5 storm that was the strongest ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere.

No, I am not afraid of being there because I am asking for, and depending on your love and prayers.

I embark on this journey fully embracing our mission here at St. Paul’s “To share God in Christ with the world by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service, and support.”

Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle will not be meeting in June, July, and August. All ladies of the church are invited to join us September 20 for a time of fellowship, devotion, and learning.

RECYCLE/REPURPOSE – Composting!

Composting is nature's process of recycling decomposed organic material into a rich soil known as "compost." Leaves and vegetable scraps are turned into a rich soil amendment gardeners nickname "black gold." Not only does it reduce landfill by approx. 30%, it reduces methane gases, one of the most harmful greenhouse gases. Using compost material can reduce the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides. It provides a nutrient rich "super soil" to add to your garden, lawn and house plants. It improves soil texture and water holding capacity where it is used as an amendment.

There are benefits to municipalities that bear the responsibility for collecting and processing solid waste also. Home composting reduces the amount of materials that must be collected, transported to a central facility and disposed of/or processed. A minimum of 500 pounds of kitchen and yard waste can be diverted per year per household.

There are different ways to make a compost pile; we have provided the following for general reference. Helpful tools include pitchforks, square-point shovels or machetes, and water hoses with a spray head. Regular mixing or turning of the compost and some water will help maintain the compost.

Backyard Composting

- Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin.
- Add brown and green materials as they are collected, making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded.
- Moisten dry materials as they are added.
- Once your compost pile is established, mix grass clippings and green waste into the pile and bury fruit and vegetable waste under 10 inches of compost material.

Optional: Cover top of compost with a tarp to keep it moist. When the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use. This usually takes anywhere between two months to two years.

Indoor Composting

If you do not have space for an outdoor compost pile, you can compost materials indoors using a special type of bin, which you can buy at a local hardware store, gardening supplies store, or make yourself. Remember to tend your pile and keep track of what you throw in. A properly managed compost bin will not attract pests or rodents and will not smell bad. Your compost should be ready in two to five weeks.

Our sympathy

We extend our sympathy and prayers to:

- ▶ the family and friends of Carrie Gilmore upon her death (friend of Ann Grovenstein)
- ▶ the family and friends of Sue Kerlin Simons (friend of Marcia and Dean Redman), who died on May 18.

In the News...

Rachel Harter, Ph.D., a senior research statistician at RTI International, has been named an American Statistical Association Fellow.

Harter is being recognized for accomplishments in the advancement of sample design protocols, survey statistics, and small area estimation in support of research for the public good; for outstanding managerial leadership, mentoring, and collaboration; for effective communication of statistical developments; and for service to the profession.

"This award is a true reflection of Rachel's multifold outstanding accomplishments over the years," said Steven Cohen, vice president, Division of Statistical and Data Sciences at RTI International. "It is very well deserved and we are pleased to have someone of Rachel's caliber and scientific stature on our team."

In the mailbag...

Dear Pastor Anderson and the people of St. Paul's,
On behalf of the Reformation 500 Task Force, I thank you for hosting Christian Preismeier during his North Carolina speaking tour. We value our partnerships with parishes like yours as we mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Thank you for your hospitality.

*Peace, Rev. Dr. Eric Childers,
 NC Reformation 500 Task Force Chair*

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Commissioning of Paulette Misenheimer

On Sunday, May 15, we commissioned Paulette Misenheimer who joined St. Paul's currently active Stephen Ministers: Barbara Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Marcy Brown, Audrey Busch, Barbara Ellertson, Kim Hoke, Lois Kinzie, Tony Perrotte, and Penni Perrotte. Paulette completed 50 hours of training in the Stephen Ministry training class led jointly by Stephen Leaders from Orange United Methodist, University United Methodist of Chapel Hill, and our own St. Paul's.

Pastor Anderson initiated Stephen Ministry training in 2014 as a way of expanding pastoral care at St. Paul's. After their initial training, each Stephen Minister is prepared to provide lay pastoral care to an individual (of the same sex) who faces a difficult transition, challenge, or life situation. Lay caregivers listen deeply, reflect thoughtfully, and share the resources of their faith, particularly with steadfast prayer support. The caring relationship continues for as long as it is needed or wanted. Stephen Ministry is NOT a substitute for the Pastor's spiritual care, but simply an extension.

To protect a care receiver's privacy, STEPHEN MINISTRY RELATIONSHIPS ARE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. Neither names nor identifying details are used in peer supervision. If you know of someone who is – or if you yourself are – in the midst of a difficult transition, for example, divorce, grief, loss, family stress or illness, and would appreciate a Christian companion during this time, or just have questions, contact Pastor Anderson or another Stephen Leader.

Please keep Paulette and all our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers in your prayers. To God be the Glory!

Stephen Leaders: Pastors Scott Anderson and Deborah Steed, Judy Kraska and Audrey Busch

Lending Library – read a book/share a book

Have you noticed the books above the coat racks? They are available for you to take a book, read a book, share a book. It is a great way to recycle/repurpose books that we all may enjoy. We are also considering a magazine exchange which will be located in the book case just off the reception area. You may share your magazines (subscription) with others. Please, only the last 3 months of publications! Enjoy both opportunities!



Young In Spirit June Event

by Marcia Redman

The Young In Spirit activity for June is the Durham Bulls baseball game scheduled for June 1. It will be the Bulls vs. Scranton at 1:05 game, the van will leave church at 12:00 pm. Sign-up is in the reception office. Contact Dick Clendaniel for information. The next meeting of the Young in Spirit will be September 14 with a bring-your-own lunch, game time and planning session.

Wednesday Night Suppers

Yes - there are Wednesday Night Suppers in June on June 1 and June 15, at 6:00 pm. Menus are still being planned but hope to see you all here in Trinity Hall at 6:00 pm those evenings – you can bet there will be a great meal awaiting you.

