

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 2016

St. Paul's has Gone Digital!

OK, the truth is, St. Paul's has been digital for a while now, but we are now more digital than before. A number of recent changes means that St. Paul's will now have a greater presence in the world of the internet and social media.

To begin with, we want to welcome to their new positions, our team of Social Media Coordinators. Jeanna Hudgins, Theresa McCoy, and Greta Timmins, have accepted the task of helping to keep our social media alive and active. They will spend a little time each day making sure new information and updates are making it to our social media.

Second, we have added Soundcloud and a Twitter page. For those who tweet, we are now @St_Pauls_Durham on Twitter. These sites join the growing network of ways in which St. Paul's uses social media to communicate with our members and to have an accessible presence on the web. In case you didn't know, St. Paul's already uses website, a church blog, a music ministry blog, a video page, and a Facebook page (web addresses below).

Taking an increased look at our social media presence was inspired by a number of recent events, including the Germany and Fiji trip blogs, people reaching out to join St. Paul's through our Facebook page, and our Facebook page becoming the top Lutheran church Facebook page in Durham.

It's our hope that we will be more connected with one another and the community around our church through our social media. Please come and join us there, and help us look for the ways in which God calls to us in the modern era to be God's hands and feet in the world, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.



Website: <http://stpaulsdurham.org/>

Parish Notes church blog: <http://stpaulsdurham.blogspot.com/>

Sacred Sound music ministry blog: <http://stpaulsdurham-music.blogspot.com/>

Vimeo video page: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham>

Soundcloud audio page: <https://soundcloud.com/user-629818742>

Twitter page: https://twitter.com/St_Pauls_Durham

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-ELCA-178099685554769/>

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Campus Pastor

Susan B. Holland, Vicar

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From the Pastor...

August is a time of transition and preparation. We said goodbye to our Vicar Joseph O'Donnell on July 31st and we will say hello to our new Vicar Susan Holland on August 15th. That means we need to remember the changing of the Vicar rules:

- ▶ Do wear your nametag
- ▶ Do introduce yourself by name to Sue for at least the first month
- ▶ Do not compare her to a previous vicar
- ▶ Do not tell her to do a task without checking with Pastor Scott
- ▶ Do invite her for a meal or a get acquainted visit.
- ▶ Do show her what a loving place this is

Remember Sue is a graduate of Duke Divinity School and lives in Cary so she does know the area. Help her to get to know St. Paul's.

We have also welcomed Rev. Laura Wind as our new campus pastor and she will be getting ready to welcome the students back to Duke. So, I encourage you to get involved with Campus ministry and offer to prepare a meal for the students.

We are also beginning to make preparation for the fall Sunday school. That does not start until September but we need teachers to begin

preparing lessons and we need to schedule adult teachers. I would like to schedule some adult classes on race and reconciliation in the fall and anyone interested with helping me prepare those classes, please contact me.

Please put a reminder on your calendars for Sept. 11th – Rally Day during the Sunday school hour and at 4:30 pm the installation service of Pastor Laura Wind.

Anyone interested in helping to teach our children or adults in the fall please contact the church office.

Pastor Scott



Music Ministry Updates

I can hardly believe summer is soon coming to a close and choir season will be starting up again before we know it. The choir will begin singing at the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 11th, the weekend after Labor Day weekend. We have lots of wonderful music planned for this year and are currently looking to recruit new singers!

On Wednesday, August 24th at 7:00 pm, I am throwing a choir party at my house (very close to St. Paul's) which I'm officially calling 'Choir Retreat

Night.' Anyone from the congregation interested in singing is invited! At this party, we're going to read through and sing all the anthems from September through Christmas – not worrying about wrong notes or perfecting anything, but just singing and being filled with the Holy Spirit! This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in joining but not sure of how many Sundays they can commit to singing with the choir – you'll be able to get an idea of which anthems you think you might like to sing, and know the dates we're singing them right now in advance. Even if you don't want to commit to choir, this is a great way to share fellowship with other members of the church and enjoy singing together! If you would like to come or are interested, please email me:

music@stpaulsdurham.org.

*Your Minister of Music,
Jackie Nappi*



Failing to Say Goodbye

I realize that by the time most people read this, I will already be gone. It sounds like a horrible way to begin an article or a letter, but it's true. I've been wrestling with what to write for some time now. It all feels so final. What would you say if you knew it would be your last words?

In my mind I can't help but play the memories of internship meetings where we discussed "how to say goodbye," as if there is some trick to goodbyes. What do you say or do to, "get it right?" I'm particularly bad at goodbyes, as Rebecca can tell you. I always have to plan in an extra thirty minutes of travel time in case goodbyes take too long, much to the consternation of my family.

At the same time, I have been reading Fr. Richard Rohr's daily meditations lately, and this week is about the Spirituality of Imperfection. Fr. Rohr allows me a little grace this week as he reminds readers that it isn't about getting it right. In fact, Rohr contends, our spirituality and closeness to God only really grows when we get it wrong.

The irony in ending my seminary and internship process with this notion is the realization that I was getting it wrong all along. Education, learning, training, especially in our culture, is geared toward the concept of making us better, helping us achieve ... getting it right! And I tried to do just that.

Now, this probably sounds counter intuitive. It certainly does to me. But one thing I can share from

this experience is that when something sounds counter intuitive, maybe, just maybe, that's a place where God is most present and calling us out of our worldly understanding and into something deeper.

To sum up one of Rohr's arguments, think of how often we give up or see others give up because achieving the end goal seems unattainable. Does that sound like the kind of world our God of love, grace, and forgiveness would create? Perhaps the goal is not really the point.

Or simply look at the history of faith in God. God gave only one law in the beginning, and all we had to do to be perfect was to keep that one law. The Hebrews repeatedly moved toward more legalistic understandings of the law and achieving better living through obedience, and God sent prophets to challenge them to a different way of living. The Pharisees lifted up the law and God became incarnate to call us into a new way of living. Early church leaders tried to advocate for the law and Jesus sent Paul. The Catholic Church held up a very legalistic view of hell and damnation, and along came Martin Luther. Now today, I write to you quoting a Catholic Friar, who to me often sounds very Lutheran.

The dilemma, however, is that we cannot simply seek to fail in order to achieve, lest we make failing into the new form of achievement. Instead, Rohr suggests that we find the necessity of our own imperfection as something that humbles us to be open to God's call on our lives and to the care we receive from our neighbors and sisters and brothers in Christ. "What a clever place for God to hide holiness, so that only the humble and earnest will find it!" And we find this to be true in the Biblical narrative – that God constantly seeks out the outcasts, the troubled, the weak, and the rejected, not merely for healing, but to call them into a life set apart for God.

The funny thing is, we have a culture expression in the US that seems to share this idea, "embrace the suck." Except that its usage is still about achievement. The phrase means simply to put up with the problem and get it done. What Rohr is suggesting is that we do embrace our own imperfection. Not seeking it out, but simply living as imperfect people, dependent upon one another, and dependent upon God.

I find this expression, "embrace the suck," especially appropriate for goodbyes. In the last few weeks, and the couple I have left, there are many goodbyes and many hugs. When we hug goodbye, we embrace in the midst of imperfect life, and we hold on to one another, dwelling in the sense of how wonderful our time together has been, and how sad is the imperfection that is cannot last. And in the midst of it

all God is present in our love, and in our hope and faith that we will see one another again, according to God's will.

In imperfect, yet deeply abiding love,
Vicar Joseph O'Donnell



From Pastor Laura Wind...

Over these past few weeks, I have been driving around Durham (Thank God for GPS!) and trying to sort out the beginning of my ministry here with you at St. Paul's serving the students and community of Duke University. I noticed several students clumped in a group around Duke Chapel staring at their phones, taking a few steps, staring at their phones, and acting well, honestly, I thought, "What in the world are they doing?" It finally dawns on me that I had seen similar behavior both from my daughter, Catherine, who is 15, and several other younger people in Winston-Salem. Poke-man Go. I immediately texted Catherine to see if she would teach me how to play this new version of an older game. "Why?" she replied. "Because lots of the students are playing." One of the reasons I love working with young adults is that it keeps me up to date on current dance moves and other things. Yes, I learned the "Wobble" and the "Whip/Nay-Nay" last year at the National Youth Gathering in Detroit. Yes, I taught my ecumenical clergy women's group the dance. Yes, I am not afraid to dance in public, and what I lack in skill I make up for in enthusiasm. Yes, my 15 year old often rolls her eyes, and replies "You're not embarrassing me, you're only embarrassing yourself." I beg to differ.

However, being in this new call, getting turned around, hearing my GPS say, "as soon as possible, please make a legal u-turn" are part of the challenges of life in a new place. This causes me to think about and pray for the incoming freshmen, who may be feeling incredibly excited, or nervous, or somewhere in between. Since 1998, Beloit College has compiled a mindset list for each incoming class which reflects the world view or entering first year students. So, here are a few facts for the class of 2020. Most were born in 1998, and they have never licked a stamp. Google has always been in existence, and e-mail is now a formal rather than informal way to communicate. Texting and other forms of social media are popular, and people in my demographic are the most rapidly growing group on Face book. The students have moved on to other

social media platforms.

This year, college students will face difficult discussions about race, privilege, and sexual assault on campus. Many will get to vote in their first presidential election. Technology will continue to shape how and what students learn and how they communicate. It's a big, closely connected world, but it can feel very lonely at times. This is where I need your help. Please begin praying daily for the incoming and returning Duke students. Pray that they will find a welcome place here at Duke, in Durham, at the Grace House where we have Campus Ministry lounge, and at St. Paul's and Grace. Pray that they will not fall into despair as they face so many changes in such a short amount of time. We also will be feeding hungry students, so make plans to sign up to bring a meal to campus on Sunday evenings. Please check the list below for ways that you can serve as we kick off a brand new chapter in the life of Duke Lutherans.

You can support this important ministry in several different ways:

- praying for our incoming and returning students
- praying for the larger Duke community (professors, staff, administrators)
- welcoming the students as they come to worship
- signing up to provide a meal for the students
- providing treat bags during the year (Halloween, Valentine's Day, Easter bags). If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Pr. Laura or Cindy Snyder.

Orientation week for new students begins August 23. Our first Sunday night worship will be August 28 at 5 pm in the York Room at the Divinity School. Also, check out our Campus Ministry Lounge space at the Grace House. Look for more details each month in the newsletter about Duke Lutherans!

Introducing Vicar Sue

Hi! My name is Susan Holland but most people call me Sue. I am excited that I will be spending my internship year here at St. Paul's. I want to thank you for welcoming me into your community and for giving me the opportunity to learn as part of your vibrant congregation.

I come to you after spending the past year splitting my time between living in Cary and completing my Lutheran studies as part of a Master of Sacred Theology degree at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. Prior to that, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend Duke Divinity



School here in Durham where I earned a Master of Divinity degree. My studies and interests are focused on pastoral care and social justice issues. Before following the call to the ministry, I worked as an engineer, a manager, a project manager, and a mom.

My husband, Bill and I are both from New York but we moved to Cary over 20 years ago and now call the Triangle home. Bill currently works at Lenovo in Research Triangle Park, NC. We have two sons, Steven is 19 years old and is starting his junior year at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Sam is 16 years old and is a senior at Athens Drive High School. We also have two cats.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone at St. Paul's and serving in ministry with you. I can't wait to see all the ways God is moving in this faith community and how we will grow together.

Sue Holland

Grieving and Caring

by Barbara Ellertson

This column grew out of the devotion I prepared for our Council meeting on July 18. It filled my heart so much that I was moved to share it with you all.

Dear Brothers & Sisters: Trying to prepare a Daily devotion has weighed heavily on my spirit, in the wake of violence in France, in Minnesota, in Turkey, in Texas, in Syria, in Louisiana, and now in Germany. I have struggled with my own anger. I caught myself being angry at the ceremonial lighting of candles and laying of flowers, because these actions seemed so inadequate in the face of such loss and grief. Initially, I thought I would challenge my fellow Council members to action during our July 18 meeting. It seemed to me that we are past the point where "thought and prayers" were sufficient. Two programs I thought about proposing were:

- (1) an after-school program of academic support and recreational activities for at-risk youth and/or
- (2) working with Durham Congregations In Action to develop community forums on faith leadership and police leadership. The Department of Justice has resources for such programs on their website for COPS (Community Oriented Policing Strategies).

But then, prayer and meditation led me to consider the arrogance of my anger. What qualifies you, I asked, to judge what actions are needed? Isn't it possible that the impatient impulse to action is laziness, or even cowardice? Isn't it possible that skipping to action might be a way to skip the uncomfortable, even painful necessity of truly *listening*?

And so I read to the Council the July 8th statement by Rev. Lamont A. Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA). This can be found on the ELCA website; here are some excerpts:

“The African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) offers its collective prayers and empathy for the recent tragedies in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis/St. Paul, and Dallas. ... The tensions of this real pain amongst people of color in each of our communities must be addressed by all of us with a sense of urgency. We unashamedly declare within the Church that Black lives matter. Although many of our White brothers and sisters may feel our declaration is an obvious truth in light of God’s love for all God’s children, we need you to know and see that has not been the experience for many of us in the USA, global community, and even in our Church (ELCA).

We invite all of us to think on these things that are true: Young Black males in recent years were at a far greater risk of being shot dead by police than their white counterparts ... Major evidence and reports show that Black women in crisis are often met with deadly force. Other realities that cannot be ignored include transgender people of color who face greatly elevated negative outcomes in every area of life. It would be even more troubling to mention the great inequalities experienced within the ELCA concerning people of color.

All of these are daily realities of faithful people among us. Much of this real pain and suffering has gone unnoticed and unaddressed far too long. Therefore, when Black lives are systematically devalued by church and society, our outrage justifiably insists that attention be focused on Black lives.

We invite the entire Church to show up prayerfully and intentionally against all societal values of supremacy, superiority, and complacency. For those wondering what to do and how to engage in this mission of solidarity, grab a prayer partner and just show up, pray, and provide an authentic ministry of presence as a part of our domestic mission and faith practices. Even if it is uncomfortable, be intentional in coffee hour conversations, sermons, social media and in each of our communities to declare action and support for the eradication of systemic practices that prevent true equality for all people. Develop alliances and connections with local associations like ADLA, civic/justice groups, ecumenical partners, and especially Historically Black Churches who are already doing the work of transformation. Together we can do more by joining in with others.”

– The Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells, President,
African Decent Lutheran Association (ELCA)

“Quoted with permission from the African Descent Lutheran Association. For full text, please go to: <http://goo.gl/VpW6P2>”

On July 7, I was running errands when President Obama’s speech in Dallas was broadcast on the radio. On a searing hot afternoon, this is part of what we heard:

“Can we do this? Can we find the character, as Americans, to open our hearts to each other? Can we see in each other a common humanity and a shared dignity, and recognize how our different experiences have shaped us? ... I am reminded of what the Lord tells Ezekiel: I will give you a new heart, the Lord says, and put a new spirit in you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

That’s what we must pray for, each of us: a new heart. Not a heart of stone, but a heart open to the fears and hopes and challenges of our fellow citizens. That’s what we’ve seen in Dallas these past few days. That’s what we must sustain.

Because with an open heart, we can learn to stand in each other’s shoes and look at the world through each other’s eyes....

With an open heart, we can abandon the overheated rhetoric and the oversimplification that reduces whole categories of our fellow Americans not just to opponents, but to enemies.... With an open heart, we can worry less about which side has been wronged, and worry more about joining sides to do right. ...

For all of us, life presents challenges and suffering – accidents, illnesses, the loss of loved ones. There are times when we are overwhelmed by sudden calamity, natural or manmade. All of us, we make mistakes. And at times we are lost. And as we get older, we learn we don’t always have control of things.... But we do have control over how we respond to the world. We do have control over how we treat one another.

... Hope does not arise by putting our fellow man down; it is found by lifting others up.”

Our devotion ended with a paraphrase from 1 Corinthians 12, verses 24-27, when St. Paul writes of the body and its many members, and how all parts are needed to make up one body. He describes how God “tempered the body” so that there should be no schism, but that the members should have the same care one for another. When one member suffers, all the members suffer.

Among my prayers for this time are pleas for God’s strength and guidance in our turmoil and hurt. I pray that our actions and decisions will serve to increase the light of God’s love in the world around us.

Morning Prayer

Looking to pray more regularly? How about with others? Or perhaps especially with a fellow Lutheran from a strange, far-off land called Canada? If any of these suit your fancy, please join me Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7:30 am to 8:00 am in the sanctuary, beginning August 1. Reading, singing, bowing, and kneeling – feel free to join in or simply pray alongside in silence. All are welcome!

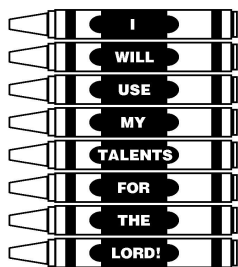
For more information, contact Christopher McDonald at clm99@duke.edu.

Morning Prayer

- ▶ **When: 7:30 am to 8:00 am - Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**
- ▶ **Where: St. Paul's sanctuary**

A Chance to Share your Skills/Talents

The Education committee will have a meeting on Sunday, August 14th after the 11 am service. If you are interested in helping with our children's Sunday school rotations, please come to the meeting or contact Pastor Anderson or Betty Hinshaw. The classes are done on a rotational basis using crafts, cooking, puppetry and other ways of conveying the story for that month. Group leaders can pick what they would like to do and as often as they would like.



Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen, Director

As August approaches, we will soon begin gearing up for our next school year. The beginning of the school year is met with much excitement and anticipation. We are excited to be offering

six classes this school year for children 10 months – 4 years old for 50 children.

Preschool Summer Camp wraps up August 4. We have had six weeks of fun! We welcomed 38 children, ages 2-5, to our summer program. They experienced Fairy Tales and Music in July and we finished with Messy Camp in August. Check out the Preschool Facebook page for photos throughout the summer!

It's also that time of year to relink your Harris

Teeter VIC and Kroger Plus cards. When you link your card to St. Paul's Preschool & PMO, we will receive a portion of your purchases from Harris Teeter or Kroger. The Harris Teeter account number is **3049**. You can link in any store or online and you do not need to be a preschool parent to link your card. To link your Kroger Plus card, visit krogercommunityrewards.com to register online. Our NPO number is **82098**. Thank you for supporting the preschool!

Pilgrimage Continued

by Morris and Pat Casper

We continued the pilgrimage into the Czech Republic and Poland. We had some very nice experiences in both countries. One such was the worship service in the Lutheran church in Czesky Tesin, Czech Republic (twin city to Cieszyn, Poland).

Morris worshiped with this congregation while in Poland in 2012. He was made to feel like part of their community by Pastor Pietok; Pastor provided interpreters who also then provided comfort with conversation and a cup of coffee and maybe a meal. Manna

Pat had a taste when they went to a worship service there. Morris had notified Pastor Pietok that he hoped we would be able to become a part of the worship service when we were in Europe. When we arrived, Morris did not note any familiar faces. But from the pulpit some 10 feet in the air, Pastor Pietok said in almost perfect English, "Morris Casper, are you and your wife here? If so I have provided an interpreter for you." And the sermon began. The interpreter who had seen us was already sitting in the pew next to us. Manna

So, I think that if a conversation with sister churches in Europe is continuing with St. Paul as a conversant member then we can consider ways to keep the conversation going with these brothers and sisters. Manna anyone?

LSC Champions

Lutheran Services Carolinas needs assistance from NC congregations to identify volunteers who can be Champions between congregations and LSC. Champions are communicators, advocates, and leaders who serve as the liaison between LSC and our congregation. Their primary role is to help foster relationships and work to build a meaningful partnership. Communication between Champions and

LSC will be two-way. LSC wants to be actively involved in the life of your church and be a resource for your congregation. A list of Key Responsibilities is posted on the bulletin board by the receptionist office. Champions are generally lay people in the congregation. It could be a person who already has a connection with LSC or who would be interested in learning more about the LSC ministry.

If you would be interested in serving as a LSC Champion from St. Paul's, please speak with Pastor Anderson by August 12.

In the mailbag...

Thank you so much for your donation of \$125.00 which we received on 6/29/2016. Your generous gift will be put to work right away helping Families Moving Forward find permanent, secure housing for homeless families with children in Durham.

Permanency. Stability. Self-sufficiency. These powerful words describe how your gift will help 60-80 homeless families with children this year find a place they can call home and stay housed with the support of professional case management and volunteer support.

Thank you for believing that everyone deserves a home!

Ryan Fehrman

Executive Director, Families Moving Forward

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 through Urban Ministries of Durham to offer neighbors food, shelter and a future.

Your gifts give hundreds of your neighbors the chance to rebuild their lives each year at UMD. It starts with a safe bed and a warm meal – but doesn't stop there.

Bryan Gilmer

*Director of Marketing & Development
Urban Ministries of Durham*

(Full letters are on the bulletin board in the receptionist office)

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Larry Grovenstein and family upon the deaths of Lavine Cobia (his aunt) and Pearl Grovenstein (his mother).

Also to Doris Tilley and family upon the death of her brother, Commander Reece Belk, Jr., Rt.

Welcome by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, July 3, 2016, we welcomed Luke Robert Prosser and Margaret Ann Prosser, children of Jessica and Matthew Prosser, by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Luke was born on April 21, 2013 and Margaret was born on June 7, 2016. They live in Denver, Colorado. Sponsor is Bret Schluederberg. Grandparents are Ann and Jerry Koontz.

Congratulations

On June 26, 2016, Danielle Christina Istock and William Brady Swing were married at St. Paul's, Pastor Scott Anderson presiding.

New Members Information

Gail Anderson

transferring from Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Austin, TX

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gailann1948@gmail.com

Steven and Pamela Taylor

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Clara Castillo de Santana and German Antonio Santana

transferring from Iglesia Sion in Charlotte, NC

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Wednesday Night Suppers

Aug 3 at 6:00 pm
Salad Days Pot-Luck!

Everyone is encouraged to come for supper. We invite you to bring along some type of salad to share – the possibilities are endless: pasta, green, potato, tuna, chicken, fruit, jell-O, bean, Greek, taco, ambrosia, caesar, chef, cole slaw, egg, macaroni, ham, rice, taco, Waldorf, or wedge – you name it and it can probably be made into a salad. It is also something that can be prepared the night before or purchased on your way. We will supply beverages, bread, and desserts. Get your thinking caps on and see what varieties you can come up with! Please bring a little card indicating main ingredients with your dish.



The third Wednesday meal will take place on August 17, at 6:00 pm, menu not completed yet. Watch for details on it!

Growing Thru Grief

We sponsor a local coalition of Triangle-area Christian Churches and supporting organizations which meets regularly on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00 pm at St. Paul's. This program includes core education on the grief process and small group discussions. Come for refreshments at 4:00 pm. All are welcome! For information, email: growingthrugrief@gmail.com.

Summer Adult Conversations

Join us on Sunday mornings in Whitesell Hall at 9:45-10:45 am for a Lectionary Bible Study. We will delve deeper into the lessons and Gospel readings from worship each week. Group is led by Sharon Schulze.

Worship Book Change

On Sunday, August 7, we will begin using Worship Setting 3 booklets.

Murals Near Completion

We are nearing completion of the mural painting downstairs – if you wish to help, contact Robin Winfree or Penny Perrotte as to scheduled times. We hope to be finished in time for the start of our new Sunday School year on September 18.

Looking ahead...

Sept 11- Rally Day with breakfast at 9:30 am
Oct 9 – Pumpkins arrive!
Oct 12 - Oktoberfest (only meal in October!)
Oct 16 - Michael Burkhardt Festival
Oct 22 - Yard Sale

