Cross Connections

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 2019



Vicar

Such a strange word that means so much to the greater church and to us at St. Paul's.

I get asked why we have vicars and what does it mean? The term vicar comes from *vicarious* which had a meaning of one who learns from or substitutes for another. In the ELCA, vicars are 3rd or 4th year seminarians that spend one year in a parish setting, learning what it is to be a pastor. The ELCA is one of the few denominations that require this year of intensive learning.

Some have suggested that vicars are cheap labor. That is not true. The total cost for a vicar is about \$34,000 per year and the investment of time is significant. We have not budgeted that amount this coming year and do not plan to budget for a vicar the following year. We will be able to have a vicar beginning in August because of a generous donation from one member family.

The ELCA, like most mainline denominations, is very short of pastors for our congregations. Without places like St. Paul's for vicars to learn, we would have even fewer pastors in the future. St. Paul's knows how to be a teaching parish and this is much appreciated by the seminary and the NC Synod. We benefit from the knowledge and insight of our Vicars.

Vicar Megan finishes her time with us on July 21st. We give thanks to God for her year with us and we look forward to at least one more year of relationship with our new Vicar.

Pastor Scott

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Megan Hoewisch, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

pastor@stpaulsdurham.org admin@stpaulsdurham.org music@stpaulsdurham.org preschool@stpaulsdurham.org vicar@stpaulsdurham.org ahw22@duke.edu crhugg@charter.net

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

From the Pastor...

July always means confirmation camp and maybe a little vacation time. Confirmation Camp is a time to take some of our Middle School students for a time away at Camp Agape. This year we will study the church year from Advent to Christ the King Sunday.

We will walk with Jesus and one another discussing how the seasons change, how the colors within the church change and how we change in our understanding of life with God in Christ Jesus.



The youth will have

time with counselors doing all the normal camp activities: zip lining, swimming, crafts, archery, fun bugging, campfires, worship and learning. I always look forward to seeing how camp changes our young people and rejoice in the time we get to spend together. This year, five of our young people will join Vicar Megan and me at camp, July 7-12.

Keep us in your prayers.

July is vacation time and many of us will take some time away. I want to encourage you to worship where you go on vacation. We always like to see bulletins from other places, so drop one by the church office.

Life continues during the summer at St. Paul's. We will be offering study, reflections and continue the work of Planting Hope. We hope to gather to discuss some of the responses we received from our sharing during June, so be on the lookout for times to gather and continue sharing hopes and dreams.

We give thanks for our finance team and the work they have done over many years. We are working to find replacements for several of the financial committee members. We give thanks for those that are considering participation with this group. We have to remember that we are a church but a part of being church is managing the business and financial end of life together. We want to continue to be good stewards of all of our resources.

Please continue to pray for our congregation and our life together.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

As a congregation who has supported, encouraged, and loved plenty of vicars, many of you already know what happens in the life of a fourth-year vicar after internship. However, the process is *just*

convoluted enough that a refresher on the how's and the why's is helpful. The ELCA is divided into 65 synods, which are grouped together into 9 regions. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, representatives from each region gather to assign all candidates for a first call (that's me!) to a region. Then the bishops in that region divvy up the candidates and assign them a synod. This might sound bureaucratic, but Bishop Tim Smith assures us that each name is prayed over during the assignment process. Bishop Smith has said that this gathering "gives the bishops hope for the church."

Sometimes a candidate goes into the assignment process with geographical restrictions, like Vicar Sue when she needed a church near her husband's work in California. The bishops want to honor those often family-related restrictions, but geographical restrictions result in too many pastors in some synods and not enough pastors in others. Since I'm in a phase of life with high mobility, I will be one of the candidates who checks the "Send me anywhere!" box. A holy adventure awaits!

Back to the process! Now the bishops have their bevvy of pastors-to-be. The bishops identify congregations that would be a good fit for a first call pastor and send those call committees the candidate's information. The decision passes to the hands of the congregation. They might choose to interview, or, to use the parlance of the dating apps, they might "swipe left" and say no thanks. If that's the case, then the candidate's information is sent to another call committee at another congregation. And so the process goes until a congregation votes to call the candidate, whereupon the candidate is ordained and installed and throws a party.

Why do we have this multi-step process that relies on bishops and congregations? Why share in the decision? In some denominations, bishops control almost the entire process: bishops assign a pastor to a congregation and there's not much congregational say in the matter, like in the Catholic Church. In other denominations, congregations have complete autonomy to choose their pastor, and the wider church body plays no part, like in many Baptist congregations. These differences stem from different polities, or the ways that we organize and govern our church bodies. A church's polity is determined by tradition, theology, history, and practical realities. The ELCA has tried to balance hierarchy, which provides greater unity, and local autonomy, which gives congregations more agency. Thus we have a system of ordination that incorporates the larger expressions of the church (the synod and churchwide) with the smaller expression of the church (the congregation). The bishops and the

laity each have a role to play – we are truly church together.

As I begin the assignment and interview stages, I will treasure and lean on the lessons I've learned at St. Paul's. You've taught me practical lessons, like how to run an industrial dishwasher, and universal lessons, like how to preach the Gospel with clarity and conviction. Through it all, you have offered me the freedom and grace to figure out how I can use my gifts to serve God and God's people. Wherever the Spirit leads, I will always love St. Paul's and the people who make this church a little corner of the Kingdom. My sincere gratitude and a heartfelt thank you.

In Christ, Vicar Megan

"Pull up a Chair..."

"The kingdom of God is a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table," Rachel Held Evens wrote, "not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, and because there's always room for more." Held Evans, a 37-year-old best-selling Christian author, tragically died this spring after initially being hospitalized for the flu.. As I've reread some of her work in recent weeks, I've been struck by the way she talks about God's invitation to the table. "I've been struck by the way she was so quick to note that we are not the ones to set the table or prepare the feast. It's already been given. We simply are invited to pull up a chair and dig in.

In a certain sense, that's a good way to sum up much of what we were up to this year at Duke Lutherans. We pulled up chairs at the long wooden tables of the York Room where we gathered to eat after Evening Prayer each Sunday night, cafeteria tables where we pause to eat together in the middle of a busy week, plastic folding tables where we broke bread with folks experiencing homelessness in Wilmington on our Spring Break trip, taproom tables where graduates wrestled with questions of faith at Pub Theology, and the picnic table on the porch of the Grace House where we started sharing meals with new neighbors from across the Durham community.

Eating together can be particularly difficult at a place like Duke, where class schedules don't account for meal times, extracurricular schedules don't make room for many breaks, and "earning bread" is a full-time job (and then some) – leaving less time to "break" or "share" it. But we also know that we are called to the table to share the bread of life together. In fact, once we recognize what an under served gift this bread is, and the fact that it's *already* been given, how could

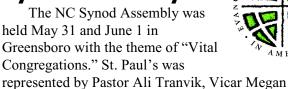
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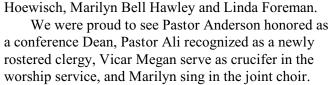
One 2019 graduate said this: "Duke Lutherans helped me realize what a gift it is to pause in the middle of a hectic day and eat a meal with friends who genuinely wanted to hear about my day ... I didn't realize I needed that. I had papers to write and reading to finish. But when I'd come to the table, I realized not only the literal sustenance the food gave my body, but also the way those conversations fed my soul."

As we look back on this year and ahead to the next, we give thanks for the gift of life together at the table. We also give thanks for *your* presence at the table, for all the ways you support this ministry. Let us know if you'd like to join us for a meal next fall, we'd love to have you. As Held Evens rightly said, because our God is a God of abundance, there's always room for more.

Pastor Ali Tranvik

The North Carolina Synod Assembly





St. Paul's own David Franzen offered pastoral counseling and former member Pastor Kim Carlson (now in Elizabeth City) served as chaplain.

In between reports and business, the program focused on "vitality" as seen in our relationships with God, each other and the world. What makes a vital congregation? St. Paul's is right on track as we participate in the Planting Hope process that will lead us to a purpose statement and priorities.

We celebrated 40 years of African American women in ordained ministry in NC and acknowledged the continuing hard work of addressing the realities of bias and discrimination among us. Next year is the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA and we celebrated 35 years of ordination for Pastor Wendy Waugh.

Bishop Tim Smith spoke powerfully of the many forms privilege takes and our collective responsibility to identify opportunities to create more equity within the church, our communities and the world. We also learned of the vital work of the many agencies of the church – outdoor ministries, social services, disaster relief and education, to mention a few.

We joined together to support the recovery of congregations and families still recovering from Hurricane Florence and the campus ministry at UNC-Charlotte.

Actions taken included:

- election of synod council members, including Omar Bell, Marilyn Hawley's son
- constitutional changes that included shifting to a calendar of synod assembly and educational events in alternate years and conference deans appointed by the Bishop.
- budget
- ► affirming the goal of 10% benevolence giving for congregations.

The NC Synod Assembly brings us together as individuals and congregations to faithfully face and shape the future and be the hands doing God's work in all of our places.

Reported by Linda P. Foreman

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen
This summer we
continue to offer summer
camp for our preschool
families, and we have more
than 40 children attending
throughout our six weeks of
camp. Summer camp is

always a fun time for children and teachers. Children move into their new classrooms for the fall and teachers are able to spend time getting to know some new children.

As I reflect on this past school year and look forward to the next, I realized how much we accomplished as a preschool. The director at Durham Community Preschool and I spent the last year working together to offer staff development and parenting workshops about Conscious Discipline. This fall, we plan to offer more parenting workshops and anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend. More information will be available this fall. I will also spend time throughout the summer planning staff development and setting goals for the next school year.

We have a few more spots in our Twos classes this fall. Visit our website:

http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com or please

contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

St. Stephen Namesake of Stephen Ministers

This month's article is written by Janet Seiz, who is a college professor of art history. Last year, in a presentation about Stephen Ministry, she



highlighted a painting of St. Stephen. This painting was created by Jean Fouquet, and it hangs in the Germaldgaleries in Berlin. The painting shows St. Stephen after his stoning (note the blood dripping from his rock-wounded head) with his hand around the shoulders of Etienne (Stephen) Chavalier, who was King Charles VII of France's head minister. The painting was created in 1455 as part of a two-piece altarpiece later donated to the Church of Notre Dame in the town of Melun.

Interestingly, there is another illustration commissioned by Etienne Chevalier featuring his patron namesake St. Stephen also facilitating his worthiness to be in the presence of Mary and the Christ Child. It is located in a surviving manuscript known as the Hours of Etienne Chevalier. In this image one sees again on the left, St. Stephen placing his hand on the shoulder of Etienne Chevalier.

St. Stephen was the first martyr of the Christian church. I think the history of the visual arts and St. Stephen have done this first martyr a disservice – always focusing on the stoning death of this holy man – and not as much on his beloved role in the nascent Christian community that sought out his gifted leadership. It is this aspect of the beloved Stephen, the teacher, and advocate that I am drawn to. Who knows, maybe that is what Kenneth Haugk had in mind when he picked Stephen to be his ministry's namesake.

As background on what the Bible tells us about Stephen, Janet wrote the following:

In Acts 6:5 we are told "They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit." This is a strong recommendation!

Then, after a stressful session in the Sanhedrin, there is this quote 6:15, "All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel."

Wow, just what would it be like to look over and see the power of God emanating from the face of a beloved one in our midst. It would be amazing, captivating, memorable – ineffable. I think of the few times when I have looked at the face of a lover of Christ in my life, in my community and felt such things. I never thought of it as the face of an angel – rather, I saw what my timid and weak eyes conveyed to me was a vision of pure holiness on earth. I remember once picking up a bouquet from a flower shop in Illinois that I frequented – and the gifted florist there – who had eyes that looked out in divergent directions and a humped spine, to me on that day as she handed me the most exquisite arrangement of spring flowers ... radiated at that moment, the presence of pure divine glory.

And then there is the final vision – Acts 7:15 ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

And, after pronouncing said vision – the sad souls in that crowd – with the blessings of Saul, stoned him.

What would all this mean in the life of a Stephen Minister? Well, for one this is the story of a person on the sidelines – faithful and witnessing. Watching and being aware of the unique and special people and events surrounding them and their lives. And then – as one watches and is present – a holy one of God has a vision and tells about it. This I feel is the part of Stephen Ministry that confounds me on a regular basis. Through Stephen Ministry I am graced to be placed in situations where visions of divinity swirl around me. Thank goodness for those – like a town crier that says "Look ... this is what is happening here ... pay attention." Nobody ever told me that my care received would be for me a holiness lighthouse ... but she is, on a regular basis.

Why Is a Charitable Gift Annuity a Good Thing?

by Alice Barnes

This is one article in a series of topics about various types of planned gifting. We will feature one topic each month in Cross Connections. To see the other articles in the series, check our website stpaulsdurham.org under Resources.

Part 1: IRAs

Part 2: Life Insurance

Part 3: Wills

Part 4: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part 5: Charitable Trusts

This month we feature Charitable Gift Annuities

These days, annuities are getting a lot of attention as a way to ensure income in retirement. But there is a special kind of annuity – a charitable gift annuity – that provides income now and then benefits a charitable institution when the annuity-holder dies.

I have a charitable gift annuity from the ELCA Foundation that will benefit St. Paul's when I die. It's such a good thing that I want to share this story with you. I am not a wealthy person with a lot of monetary assets, so this type of gift is really a great way for me to ensure that St. Paul's receives a gift upon my death. When I bought the annuity, I was able to count a large portion of that amount as a charitable gift. The annuity pays me a small amount every month which helps me with my budget in "retirement." The ELCA Foundation sends me a statement every year because not all of that monthly income is taxable (some is nontaxable), which is another help for my budget. I wish other people knew more about ELCA charitable gift annuities. Here is an article to explain it:

Are you wanting to make a lasting gift to the church, but you still need income from your money today? A charitable gift annuity may be right for you. Here is how it works.

You transfer an asset to fund a Gift Annuity to a certain level. Then based on your age, you will receive a guaranteed payout for life. A portion of this payout each year will be eligible for a tax deduction and the original gift to fund the gift annuity is partially deductible.

Charitable Gift Annuities are great for people looking to guarantee income and often to increase the income stream from an asset. It is important to note that once you place an asset into the Gift Annuity that you cannot get it back, but you do get the income each year for life and the income is guaranteed.

Gift annuities can help avoid or significantly reduce capital gains taxes. St. Paul's will use the ELCA Foundation to manage annuities.

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates can be found at http://acga-web.org/gift-annuity-rates

For more information about Charitable Gift annuities, please contact a member of the Council or the Stewardship Committee. We have a contact from the ELCA Foundation who works with all the churches in the North Carolina Synod.

Calling All Volunteers

by Penni Perrotte

When you receive a "Parish Note" requesting volunteers for a specific event, do you respond with a



YES or do you think: "Guess I'll let the other guy do it. I bet there are lots of people who will step up." That's not always the case.

Do you remember the Yard Sale had to be cancelled because of this kind of thinking?!

Now, obviously, there are congregants not able to help because they may be: 1) full-time employees; 2) retired from years of volunteering; 3) out of town when needed; 4) medically disabled; 5) full-time caretakers or 6) just plain burned out from being part of the core group seemingly doing everything.

To all others, I invite you to become a "doer" whenever possible! It will cost you no money; you do not have to be a leader; you can control the number of hours you work; and it will actually feel good to participate in fulfilling the mission of our church! To boot, you will most likely meet new people and have some fun!

As they say: "It takes a village" to get things done, especially for events like Vacation Bible School, Wednesday Night Dinners, Receptions and the Yard Sale. Please consider becoming an on-going, participating volunteer in St. Paul's village! When asked for help, please pick up the phone or write an email to Susan Esposito and say YES!

Thanks much!

Featured Congregation

Did you know that our congregation is a member of the Triangle Conference, one of the sixteen conferences that make up the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA? The Conference brings together the fourteen ELCA congregations and four Lutheran Campus Ministries in the Triangle for mutual support and cooperation and to work together as the face of Lutheranism in our area. The congregations included in the Triangle Conference are: in Cary – Christ the King; in Chapel Hill – Holy Trinity; in Durham – Arbol de Vida, Christus Victor, Church of the Abiding Savior, Our Savior, and St. Paul's; in Fuquay Varina – Abiding Presence; in Garner – Lord of Life; and in Raleigh – Good Shepherd, Grace, Holy Trinity, Joy of Discovery, and St. Philip. Lutheran Campus Ministries

in the Triangle serve UNC (Holy Trinity Chapel Hill), Duke (St. Paul), NC State (Holy Trinity Raleigh) and NC Central (Church of the Abiding Savior).

Rostered leaders in the Triangle Area get together regularly to share how the Spirit is moving in their communities and to discern how local congregations can work together and support each other.

Joy of Discovery Lutheran Mission had its service of Holy Closure last month. We give God thanks and praise for the opportunity to do ministry in Southeast Raleigh for 13 years.

We were the only Lutheran ministry – among 49 others – to lead worship, healing services, and revivals in the NC Women's Prison. We led monthly worship services at the Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities for residents, their families, and staff; these were the only worship services there in the 50-year history of the Center. We tutored and mentored youth at "Loaves and Fishes" Ministry's after-school program; we enjoyed significant partnerships with Bugg Elementary School and Building Independence (a group home for those living with developmental disabilities); and we partnered with students and staff at St. Augustine's University to lead worship for Freshman Orientation, Greek Week, and a revival – as well as partner for "God's Work/Our Hands Sunday."

We appreciate so much your prayers, support, and financial contributions to our ministry. We could not have done any of the above without them.

PRAYER: Good and gracious God: we thank you for the mission and ministry of Joy of Discovery. We thank you for all the various lives you have touched and blessed through them. We thank you for their faithfulness. We ask that you would guide their members to new church homes. We trust in you, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Changes of Address

Barbara Mollica

Kim Mollica and Harmony

211 Stokes Street, Apt A104 Durham NC 27701 919-685-7800

Steve and Dawn York

Heidi and Kara 5544 Sunlight Drive, Apt 108 Durham, NC 27707

Barbara Anderson – change of email address Barbara.Anderson555@gmail.com

In the mailbag...

Thank you for the prayers, cards, kind words, pastoral visits, meals, prayer shawl, and other gifts during the months of my cancer treatments. Your care and outpouring of support meant a lot.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God when cancer lays you low.
Praise God for cures that make you new.
Praise God for love that sees you through.
Praise God for you!
Rachel Harter

* * * * *

To the Community of St. Paul's

My family and I are extremely grateful for your prayers, kindness, care, and support you provided at the time of Nancy's death. St. Paul's and its caring people have been a joy and blessing for Nancy over the twenty-three years we have been here. We are especially grateful to Pastor Anderson who was present with us many of the last hours of Nancy's life.

In gratitude, Dick Clendaniel

Memorials Given

Our thanks to the following persons who have given memorials in memory of Nancy Clendaniel.

Rachel Harter and Richard Havill, Chapel Hill John and Linda Foreman, Durham Cynthia Snyder and Charles Fennimore, Durham Diana and Theodore Dominick, Durham Larry and Phyllis Jenkins, Durham Robert and Shirley Bacher, Bluffton SC George M. Davis, Durham Margaret Simis, Chapel Hill Virgil (Gus) Holshouser, Durham Richard and Mary Alice Farrell, Raleigh Laura and Gregg Morris, Downers Grove, IL Dr. Carl Mason, Jr. Durham

Christmas in July



The Social Ministry Committee invites you to participate in our Christmas in July event. As we did last summer, we again invite you to donate to the ELCA Good Gifts program. This

program supports hard-working, but struggling families and individuals around the world and in our more local communities. Last year St. Paul's donated funds enough to buy an ark full of animals. ("pigs and chickens and goats, oh my!). This year, the funds will go to either of two places, either to stock a health clinic or help people recovering from a natural disaster. Seventy-five dollars (\$75) will stock a health clinic for a week. Two hundred dollars (\$200) will buy a month of supplies for a family after suffering losses from natural disasters. Any amount you choose to give toward either or both projects will be greatly appreciated. Bulletin inserts are available to indicate your project preference and your donation amount. We will be collecting through the month of July.

The work of God at St. Paul's is ...

An important thing about St. Paul's is ...

The Planting Hope initiative continues as we collect information to define a purpose and direction for the ministry of St. Paul's. Please take the time to complete the two statements shown above. You can send this information by email to admin@stpaulsdurham.org or you can complete one of the forms available on the usher table in the foyer and then it in the offering plate or Susan's mailbox. The statements will be collected and utilized to produce a purpose statement for St. Paul's.

In addition to completing the statements, please take a **picture** of something you find important at St. Paul's and either post it on the board in the atrium, or submit it to either Pastor Scott (pastor@stpaulsdurham.org) or Susan (admin@stpaulsdurham.org). Let the picture help tell a story about St. Paul's. As noted by Pastor Scott in the June issue of the *Cross Connections*, the photo can be a person(s), places in the church, events or anything else that is most important for you about the fellowship at St. Paul's. The congregation will have an opportunity to vote on the photos and **prizes**, yes **prizes**, will be awarded!! Your participation is greatly appreciated.

<u>The Planting Hope Team</u>: Pastor Scott, Ellen Lavery, Lisa Lewis, Tina Bessias, Betty Hinshaw, George Seiz.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA 1200 West Cornwallis Road Durham, NC 27705-5731

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Instant Church Directory

This is a wonderful mobile app which will give you the church directory, photos, staff, etc. at your fingertips. When the app is updated in the church office, your phones, pads, etc. are as well.

We have printed out instructions which are located in folders on the credenza – each for iOS instructions and Android & Kindle devices.

Basically, you download the app from your respective device store (no charge to you), open it, click on "Create Login" and give them your email address. Create a secure password. Check your inbox for an email from service@instantchurchdirectory.com. To complete the login process, verify your email address by clicking on the link sent in the email. Open the app and click on "Sign In" to sign into the directory. That's it.

If you have changed your email and not informed the church office, you will not be able to access the mobile app. Call or email admin@stpaulsdurham.org and give us your preferred email address.

Community Café

The sign-up calendar is on the bulletin board in the atrium for Saturdays, July 20 and August 17 to help with the Community Café from 11:00 am until 1:30 pm. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Dewhirst (nancydewhirst@yahoo.com).

Summer Tutors Needed

Our neighbors at Pilgrim United Church of Christ (3011 Academy Road) host a Bilingual Tutoring program for Durham Public School students of the local Latino community. While the program is sustained by many tutors throughout the school year, there is a pressing need for summer tutors who can commit a few hours each week to tutor a K-12 child in various subjects in an effort to prevent the loss of English language skills during the summer months.

While there are informal opportunities to learn or practice Spanish with families, all tutoring is in English. Tutors are matched 1:1 with the same child throughout the summer. Bilingual Tutoring meets at the church on Mon/Tues/Wed mornings from 9:30 - 12 until August 14th. A light breakfast and lunch are provided. While consistent hours are important for the sake of relationship, there is flexibility. Pilgrim appreciates any help you can offer, even if only an hour or two each week. Email Pastor Ali at ahw22@duke.edu if you are interested in getting involved!

St. Paul's Readers

Join the discussion of <u>Enrique's Journey</u>, by Sonia Nazario, on Thursday, July 18, at 3:00 pm in the library. Book selection for August is <u>Inspired</u>, by Rachel Held Evans.

Wednesday Night Supper

The only July Wednesday Night supper will be on July 17. Menu is a picnic! Hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and desserts. If you would like to bring a salad or dessert – contact Martha Dahl or the church office.

