

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2020

Young In Spirit will have Two Events this month!

Orrin Pilkey is our speaker for the February meeting on **Wednesday, Feb 12 at 11:00 am** in Trinity Hall. Bring along a sack lunch for after the talk. His topic is "the effect of Global Warming on our Coasts." Orrin Pilkey is currently writing books and articles and speaking on the subject of conservation of the world's beaches and barrier islands in the face of sea-level rise, shoreline stabilization, and over-development of the coast. Pilkey's research centers on both basic and applied coastal geology. He is a James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of Geology at Duke.



Our "March" activity for YIS will be a performance of **The Odd Couple**, female version, on **Saturday, February 29, at 2:00 pm** at Passmore Center, 103 Meadowlands Drive, Hillsborough. We have tickets for 12 at a cost of \$12.00 per ticket (senior pricing). Purchase tickets from the Redmans. Doors open a half hour before the show. We will meet at the Center and have dinner after at Bennet Point Grill, 4626 Hillsborough Road. Be sure to sign up in the reception office by Feb 17 and we will reserve more tickets if needed! We will not be taking the bus – meet at Passmore Center.

The Odd Couple: Neil Simon's revision of his hugely successful play, *The Odd Couple*, sees the lead characters transformed into Olive Madison and Florence Unger. Olive and their group of girlfriends are enjoying their weekly Trivial Pursuit night in Olive's messy and ill-equipped apartment. As the game continues, Florence arrives, fresh from being dumped by her husband. Fearful that the neurotic Florence might attempt suicide, Olive invites her to move in as her roommate. However, Olive and Florence have VERY different personalities. Come and enjoy laughter, chaos and sweet moments as you navigate through the friendship of Olive, Florence, their girlfriends AND the Costazuela brothers!

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Anna Carter, Vicar

Jackie Fryt, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

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

From the Pastor...

In celebrating the beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, appearance, or citizenship.

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

Some years ago the congregation council of St. Paul's adopted the welcome statement above and we placed it on the front page of our website. We wanted to clearly state "all" are welcome here, but specifically name groups that have been seen by some as outsiders. As we have been discerning our purpose, core values and preparing to grow for the future, the congregation council has determined that this year we will strive to further enhance our welcome. One way to do this is to discuss becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program recognized Lutheran congregations, synods, organizations, colleges and seminaries that publicly declare their welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. Inaugurated in 1983 with just a few congregations scattered across the United States and Canada, the program has grown to include hundreds of faith communities. In the Triangle, Holy Trinity in Raleigh and Chapel Hill, as well as Christ the King, Cary and St. Phillip Raleigh are RIC congregations currently.

I encourage you to attend upcoming informational meetings and to pray that we might take a stance for welcome and help the world understand that when we say all, we mean all are welcome.

Pastor Scott

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I continue to be humbled by your abundant generosity. Thank you for the gift you gave me for Christmas. It was a gift of provision and love.

You have given me many gifts in my time here ... the gift of learning and growing, the gift of support and encouragement, the gift of sharing our lives together, and the gift of sharing your stories with me. I love hearing about the work that God has done and is doing in your lives.

I am beginning to learn about another story in the life of St. Paul's – the story of Vacation Bible School. Not only are we beginning to think about and plan for VBS this summer, I am learning about the history of VBS at St. Paul's as a part of my Internship Project.

As the 100th Anniversary celebration approaches in 2022, we will be intentionally reflecting on how God has been with us and at work among us the last century. There are countless stories in our history and in our church archives. I will be creating a committee to help us learn how to tell these stories by first telling the story of VBS over the years.

If you have any interest in learning how to tell the story of VBS, reach out to me. In the coming weeks, look for announcements and updates as to how this opportunity will unfold.

Deeply grateful to be a part of your story,
Vicar Anna

Music Notes

by Jackie Nappi

There is now a Cantor sign up sheet on the worship office door. You can sign up to sing either both the Kyrie and psalm or one of the two at early and/or late services (separate columns for each service). You do not need to be worship assistant to sign either. If you would like a practice recording, please email Jackie: Music@stpaulsdurham.org

Join us for Duke Lutherans Sunday

by Anya Varanko

Please join Duke Lutherans at the 11 am service on February 23 for our second annual Duke Lutherans Sunday. We are so grateful for the many ways St. Paul's takes part in our ministry, including the meals you share with us on Sunday evenings on campus, the relationships you build through Adopt-a-Duke-Lutheran, your ongoing prayers, and your generous financial support. On the 23rd, a special offering will be collected to help us raise funds for our spring break "Freedom Ride" to Montgomery and Atlanta, where we will explore the relationship between race and faith with our neighbors from NCCU. We'd be very grateful for any support you're able to share to help make this trip possible. We look forward to worshipping together here at St. Paul's on the 23rd as we continue to share the gift of life together. See you there!

National Lutheran Choir - Raleigh Friday, February 21 at 7:30 pm

The National Lutheran Choir will be at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh this month! Members of our St. Paul's choir will be joining the massed choir singing. Please come support us! The performance is Friday, February 21st at 7:30 pm

Artistic Director David Cherwien says of the program: "The Church sings because there is so much to sing about, and singing is the deepest way to embody the sacred story we share." The National Lutheran Choir sings this sacred and spiritual story in a way that is guaranteed to soothe your soul. The eclectic program will feature choral works by Felix Mendelssohn (Psalm 100, "Jauchzet dem Herrn"), Ralph Vaughan Williams (Mass in G minor), and "The Spheres" from Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass set alongside new arrangements of familiar tunes, including Kenneth Dake's "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

The 60-voice National Lutheran Choir seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.

FREE admission! No ticket required.

Council Corner

*by Tina Bessias
Council Chair*

In early January, the NC Synod offered a webinar for new council presidents. It gave me a helpful perspective on the range of practices and the core functions of a congregation council. And it made me appreciate the professionalism of our staff, our finance team, and our past councils. The work of the 2020 council will build on a foundation of good governance and responsible stewardship of resources.

We began the year with an early January retreat at the Jewish Community Center. Lisa Lewis, who is a staff member there, arranged for us to meet in that lovely and welcoming space. There we made plans to proceed with some projects already under way at St. Paul's:

- ◆ completing the sale of Damascus House to Wildflower Cottage
- ◆ launching a capital campaign
- ◆ wrapping up the Planting Hope process and acting on its findings
- ◆ clarifying the relationship with the preschool
- ◆ improving communication between council and congregation by holding quarterly update meetings

- ◆ supporting preparations for our 100th anniversary in 2022

The council also adopted these initiatives:

- ◆ To engage in conversation about becoming an official "Reconciling in Christ" congregation
- ◆ To plan for uses of Whitesell Hall after Wildflower Cottage moves out
- ◆ To support and coordinate efforts on evangelism, possibly including a 2nd annual spring block party
- ◆ To identify under-used resources and explore ways to expand their use to the glory of God (the bus would be one example)
- ◆ Explore the creation care movement and reduce our carbon footprint

Obviously, this list goes considerably beyond what nine council members could implement. With the holy spirit and strong congregational involvement, however, we can do astonishing things! One of the first opportunities for broad participation will be a congregational conversation during the Sunday School hour on Feb 2, where we will consider our path toward an official "Reconciling in Christ" designation. We will ask questions and reflect on our personal and congregational journey toward welcoming and including community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people and their families.

Please give your prayerful consideration to your role at St. Paul's in 2020. We would be glad to have you join any of the council's initiatives or the ongoing activities of worship, maintenance, outreach, etc. If you're not sure whom to contact, a message to our intrepid parish administrator, Susan Esposito (admin@stpaulsdurham.org), will get you connected. Be part of exciting times at St. Paul's.

Finance Team Transition

For over 20 years, St. Paul's finances have been largely managed by three people: Larry Jenkins as Financial Secretary, Jayne Baum as Treasurer, and Larry Grovenstein as generator of reports and backup for the other two. Others are involved, too, including our previous long-serving Treasurer, Gus Holshouser, who keeps a close eye on monthly bank statements.

It is hard to say enough about how carefully this team has stewarded our resources. There will be a time in the coming weeks to thank them officially – even as some of them continue in the same or modified roles. In the meantime, I encourage all members of St. Paul's

to express their gratitude.

New members of the finance team are Rod Runestad and Phil Hart, who will jointly fill the Financial Secretary role, and Angela Maine and John Foreman, who will take over the Treasurer responsibilities. They will all work with our staff bookkeeper, Jackie Fryt, to continue our tradition of excellent financial stewardship.

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

We invite you to join us for our 9th annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Fund-raiser on Wednesday, February 5 at 5:45 pm in Trinity Hall. We will be celebrating our 10 year anniversary as a preschool

during our dinner as well. We invite all of our preschool alumni to return for a special evening.

Proceeds from the dinner portion will benefit our financial scholarship fund, which assists families who need financial support to send their child to preschool. The account is funded by individuals and groups of families who have donated monetary gifts to support the scholarship program specifically. Money is donated through fund-raising events as well as regular donations by church members. Scholarships shall be designated for students who attend the preschool whose families may be having financial difficulty and require tuition assistance. The applications are reviewed by a subset committee of the preschool board.

The Bake Sale proceeds will benefit our playground. We use the proceeds to replenish materials like mulch and sand, as well as add new equipment to our outdoor spaces. We would like to add a music space as well as more permanent shade structures to our playground. This is always a wonderful evening to join our preschool and church families together for a delicious dinner and fellowship.

St. Paul's Welcomes LTSS Professor Rev. Dr. James Thomas Sunday, February 16, 2020

We are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. James Thomas, who will preach during the 11:00 am service here at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 16. Dr. Thomas

serves as an Associate Professor of Church and Ministry at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, where he also teaches courses in a variety of areas such as worship, Christian education, and cross-cultural ministry.

Following worship, he will also be the guest at our Continuing Conversations Group's lunch in Trinity Hall at 12:30 where he will lead the discussion and offer historical context on the 2019 Churchwide Assembly's adoption of the "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity in the ELCA," which consists of a report and recommendations on how the ELCA exhibits authentic diversity and formulates goals for racial diversity and inclusion.

Ordained in 1976, Dr. Thomas is a pastor of the ELCA and served several congregations in New York City. For seven years, he was Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. He was a Reserve Chaplain in the US Air Force for 28 years, retiring in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Dr. Thomas is a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams Peacemaker Corps and serves most summers with a team in West Bank, Palestinian Territories.

Journeying Through Grief

Through our monthly articles in Cross Connections, we have attempted to acquaint our congregation with the benefits of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers are members of St. Paul's who have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

An additional service that we provide as part of St. Paul's overall ministry is to send a series of four short booklets called *Journeying through Grief* to grieving people at four crucial times during the first year after a loved one has died.

People often receive a lot of care and attention immediately after a loved one dies, but within a few weeks the cards, letters, visits, and phone calls taper off. Just when the reality of the loss is beginning to sink in, grieving people often find themselves feeling alone and forgotten. Journeying through Grief booklets provide a simple meaningful way to reach out to the grieving person throughout that difficult first year, providing valuable and timely information to help the person better understand what he or she is going through, and the multiple contacts help the person feel valued and remembered all year long.

If you know a person who would benefit from receiving these booklets, or have any questions about

this additional ministry, please contact one of our Stephen Minister Leaders: Kim Hoke, Judy Kraska, or Nan Treul.

NC HIP Festival at St. Paul's!

The North Carolina HIP Festival is here! St. Paul's is hosting five performances and sponsoring two of those five. And it's not too late to make a donation! Your contribution will go towards paying the cost of musician fees. Each musician is paid \$350 plus some travel for two of the musicians. You can sponsor a single musician of your choice for \$350 (please specify who it is you wish to sponsor!). All gifts and contributions will be gratefully acknowledged in both programs. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, please let either Jackie Nappi or Jackie Fryt know.

How do I make a donation? Write a check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and include in the subject line "February Concerts". Mail to: Attn: Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W Cornwallis Rd, Durham NC 27705.

St. Paul's Sponsored Performances: Sounds of Sacred Italia – Thursday, Feb 6 at 7:30 pm

Delve into the mysteries of Sacred Italia. Rarely performed music from turn of the 17th century Italy for soprano, sackbut and organ.

Musicians: Andrea Edith Moore, soprano; Michael Kris, sackbut; Jacqueline Nappi, organ

Lecture/Performance: Capturing Caravaggio - Thursday, Feb 20 at 7:00 pm

Capturing the essence of Caravaggio's painting through music of late 16th and early 17th century Italy. Pre-concert 7:00 pm lecture on Caravaggio's works by artist Miguel Carter-Fischer in Trinity Hall

Musicians: Elizabeth Phelps and Nicholas DiEugenio, violin; Oliver Weston, cello; Jacqueline Nappi, harpsichord; Lecturer: Miguel Carter-Fisher, Richmond based artist

Other HIP Performances at St. Paul's Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm

CONCERT: Cor mio Madrigal settings on ardent poetry of G. B. Guarini. Rossi, d'India, Ward (\$20 suggested donation)

Viola da Gamba Society of America - Central Carolina Consort of viols: *Salomé Sandoval - soprano; Alison Crum; Roy Marks; Gail Ann Schroeder, and Brent*

Wissick - viols

Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm

CONCERT: German Baroque Sacred and Secular Cantatas (\$20 suggested donation)

Nathan Medley - countertenor; Jennifer Streeter - organ

Friday, February 28 at 7:00 pm

CONCERT: Waytes of England: Masses, Motets, and Music of the Watch (\$10 suggested donation)

Forgotten Clefs presents sacred polyphony of the English Renaissance with music by William Byrd, John Dunstable, Robert Parsons, Thomas Tallis and more.

For more HIP info and to purchase a HIPster Pass, please visit www.mallarmemusic.org

In the mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's friends,

Thank you for all the calls, visits and cards I received while I was recovering in the hospital and rehab from my fall in November. I am doing well and am now back home. Your kindness meant a lot to me, and I would appreciate receiving more visitors and calls!

Sincerely, Anna Snyder

Home address and phone: 4800 University Dr, Apt 15H (Alvista Apartments) / 919-294-4113

Mailing address: 206 Sturdivant Rd, Durham NC 27705

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Dear Members of St. Paul's,

I want to thank you for your kindness and support after the loss of my husband and my brother. You have offered prayers and help and comfort to me.

I feel so fortunate to be a part of a congregation that cares so much for others.

God bless you all,

Alice Richmond

Tuesday, Feb 25 at 6:00 pm

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper – Come, enjoy the music of the Dixieland Band and fill up before lent on pancakes, sausage, and applesauce.

Wednesday, Feb 26 at 12:00 noon & 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Services - imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA
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WCPE (89.7 FM) and theclassicalstation.org

For the past few years, FM station WCPE of Wake Forest, NC has mentioned, on the air on Sunday mornings, support given by our St. Paul's Lutheran Church together with other Triangle Area churches. Such acknowledgment of support by our congregation will continue through June 2020. This results from annual requests to our parishioners, who cumulate their contributions within the congregation and have the congregation give one collective contribution to the station in the name of the congregation.

Starting in February 2020, an effort will be made to collect the necessary \$1,000.00 of gifts, from interested members of our congregation, to continue the relationship with WCPE for another year. Please contact Hitch Havill if you are interested in making a gift to WCPE. He can be reached at Sunday services and at 919-929-2755 or dhavill@bellsouth.net.

To make a contribution, please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and give it to Hitch for delivery through the church to the FM station when we reach the goal.

St. Paul's Readers

Join the discussion of Still Life, by Louise Penny, Thursday, February 20, at 3:00 pm in the library. The book for March is The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison.

Sunday School Schedules

Adult Classes

Feb 2 - will be a congregational conversation where we will consider our path toward an official "Reconciling in Christ" designation. We will ask questions and reflect on our personal and congregational journey toward welcoming and including community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) people and their families.

Feb 9, 16, 23 - Bill Dahl will lead the discussion on "The Creeds"

In February, the children are studying "Love is". Please consider helping with the children's Sunday school. We still need one leader and one assistant, for ages 3-7 and 8-12. Contact Betty Hinshaw for details and how you can help.

A Lenten Journey: Biblical Stations of the Cross – Noon on Fridays during Lent (Feb 28, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3)

Lent is a reflective time that is guided by our lectionary, liturgy, and hymns in our worship. In our personal devotions there are many options and journeying the way of the cross is a tradition that has its earliest forms observed and recorded beginning in the late 4th century. Please join me on Fridays during Lent at noon in the sanctuary to journey through the Biblical Stations of the Cross. Through scripture, hymns, and prayers we will follow the way of the cross and ponder the connections to this path that we experience daily in our own lives.

Pastor Lorrel C. Strom-Jensen

Sunday School Series during Lent

The Angela Project Presents 40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery. 1619-2019 Commemorating 400 years of slavery and its evolution in America. This is a Scripture based study written by Dr. Kenneth B. Jobst, Executive Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement at Simmons College of Kentucky. Student Lesson packets will be provided before the first lesson and will be used throughout the series. It will be helpful to read the material prior to Sunday School Class. Series commences the first Sunday of Lent, 1 March 2020. We hope you will join us for this Bible study during Lent.