

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 2016

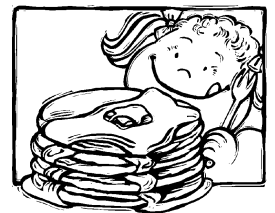
Upcoming Events.....

St. Paul's Chili Cook-off this year will also include a Cornbread cook-off so get those recipes out and start planning your chili and/or cornbread entry. Date is Wednesday, January 20. Chili and cornbread should be brought to Trinity Hall by 5:30 pm so we can get everything ready for supper to begin at 6:00 pm. Bring chili in a crockpot (we have a few if you need to borrow one.) Do not bring serving utensils. This year there will be a prize for the top winner in chili and cornbread! Remember- variety is great! We hope to see lots of entries for this festive occasion. We will provide the condiments, salad, and desserts.



Preschool Supper – Wednesday, February 3, the Preschool will be hosting the Wednesday Night Dinner. The money raised will go toward financial scholarships for families needing assistance to attend the preschool. Many of the preschool families will be there helping prepare the dinner, doing crafts and activities with children and cleaning up. Come and help support our Preschool and PMO!

Shrove Tuesday is February 9 and we will have our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We have a special evening planned with activities and music so plan to be here. Supper is at 6:00 pm.



And of course, what follows Shrove Tuesday? **Ash Wednesday**, of course. We welcome you to worship with us, services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm.

Friday, February 12 is our annual **Valentine's Day Concert** at 7:00 pm. The Durham Jazz Orchestra will be on hand to provide the big band music. You are invited to bring dessert items to share. All are invited to put on their dance shoes and take a spin around the dance floor.

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...

The new year is seen as a time for resolutions and new challenges, but I would suggest it is a time to discern what God is calling us to be and to do at St. Paul's. We completed a congregational assessment last year and the results didn't really tell us anything new.

The document suggested that we wanted: new members, to grow our children's programming, to grow the Duke Lutheran ministry, to have more assets, to have a plan for the Paschal property and to not change much.



This sounds like a plan, but is it? We did not really answer the how portion of these wants. We really did not call on God to guide us in a meaningful way. We did put a planning team together that is working on what to do with the Paschal property and we did begin to communicate with one another more fully and that needs to continue.

I begin this new year thinking about ways to help the congregation council find more ways for us all to understand how the councils work and their determination to help the congregation grow together and invite others to come grow with us.

To this end, I am working toward a reintroduction of once a month time with the pastor for conversation during the Sunday School hour and will invite various council members to participate in these forums. These will be in addition to our regular Sunday School adult offerings. I hope to, with council's blessing, institute a monthly question that we ask one another and spend time in discussion. Let me explain that a little. For example, I'd like us to think this month: what questions would you ask the worship and music committee? What questions about worship do you have? We could also spend one month asking: what do we want to know about what the council is doing? There are many more questions we could ask and then we can spend some time at the beginning of worship and on Wednesday evenings answering these questions.

In addition, I'd like us to be in prayer for one another, the congregation, our Synod, the ELCA and for God to open us to what God is calling us to be. I plan to prepare a Lenten series that will help us be people of prayer and discernment.

I want us, together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to make 2016 a year of goal setting and planning. We need to think about who we are, whose we are, and what God is calling us to be in this place. Then we need to plan how to achieve our goals and prepare to achieve them.

I hope 2016 will be a year in which we truly trust in the Lord and let the Spirit guide us.

May God grant you a year of peace.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

"Behold! I am Making All Things New!"

Even though the new church year began on November 29th, we still experience and celebrate the secular New Year with the rest of the world. It is often regarded as time of looking back fondly and letting go of hurtful things from the past and starting new efforts to make things better for the future – our New Year's resolutions. Such practices are fitting of the earliest January 1st traditions, and like many of our routines and habits, come so very close to God's call on our lives.

New Years was established in 46 BCE by Julius Caesar as the first day of the year and a celebration of the Roman god, Janus (where we get January from). This god had two faces, one that looked back to the past and the other that looked forward to the future. Thus our New Year's traditions of looking both back and forward fit with these ancient traditions.



As Christians, we are called to be people of reconciliation, and New Years can be a wonderful time to live that out, reflecting back on the wonderful things that have happened, and giving up the grudges, anger, and sadness of the past. Doing so opens us up to a more hopeful future, and this is the kind of looking forward that God calls us into. Rather than resolutions based on our own efforts, God calls us into a future hope that is both already present and yet also lies ahead of us. In that hope, we are reminded that God is the one who makes all things new, and we can only joyously participate in what God is already doing.

I was reminded of God's work, making all things new, when the image of a church sign crossed my Facebook page. The sign read, "Christmas: the story of a Middle East family looking for refuge." No one knows when Christ will come again, but it is amazing to see the rest of the Christmas story being played out

anew in our times. In light of this, I now hear many of our politicians speaking the proverbial words, “the inn is full and there are no rooms for you here.”

In our celebration of a new year, let us remember the joy of the year that has passed, and let go of the fears about refugees and anything else that fills us with anxiety or turns us away from others. Let’s remember our call to be reconciling people, looking forward with hope and watching for all the ways God is at work, making all things new.

Vicar Joseph O’Donnell

A Letter of Love

We are transferring our membership to Trinity in Sanford and thank

everyone for their graciousness all these years and for the opportunity to be a pastor after my retirement.

During the past 17 years, St. Paul’s has allowed me to preach regularly, teach, visit the sick and shut-ins, give communion, baptize children and adults, perform weddings, have long-lasting friendships, and share the qualities of St. Paul’s. We are leaving at the behest of our children who don’t want us to drive so far and so dangerously every Sunday. Time and age are keeping us to safer living.

We love you and all whom we have known so well at St. Paul’s.

Yours sincerely,

Pastor Charlie and Linda Huggins



by Roberta Lloyd, Librarian

Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe are three New Testament women about whom we know very little and yet they played important and pivotal roles in the development of the early Christian church.

Lydia (Acts 16:6-40) appears in Acts as a business woman dealing with the manufacture and sale of purple cloth and living in Philippi. The formula for purple dye was a closely held secret known only to members of the Dyers’ Guild and the cloth was purchased by the rich. Lydia owned a large home and employed servants so we surmise she was successful at her craft. The Gentile Lydia worshiped the one God of the Jews and on Sabbath mornings joined other women to pray by the river. It was here that she heard Paul and Silas proclaim the Gospel and was baptized, becoming

the first convert to Christianity on European soil and the first member of the church at Philippi, the church that later lent great support and comfort to Paul; he called it his joy and crown. Lydia opened her home to Paul and Silas, followed the Christian religion despite any ill effect it may have had on her business, and we can only guess what messages she might have sent out while living at the crossroads of business between Europe and Asia. Lydia would have served on our Evangelism Committee.

Dorcas (Acts 9:6-43) was a Christian woman living in Joppa on the Mediterranean coast and she has just died when she is mentioned in Acts. The widows of town, and there would have been many due to seafaring accidents, had bathed her body and laid her in an upper room to await burial. However, two men from Joppa rushed to Lydda ten miles away to fetch Peter. Why? Were they hoping for a miracle? Did they want him to pray over the body? In any case, Peter travels straightway to Joppa. The women show him the many cloaks and robes Dorcas had made for the poor and they mourn the loss of one so loved. Peter had all leave the room and then, in the fashion of Jesus raising Jairus’ daughter, he held the woman’s hand and proclaimed, “Tabitha, arise.” (Dorcas-Greek, Tabitha-Aramaic are the same name meaning “gazelle”) and she did! Dorcas was a loving woman who had a talent – sewing. She saw a need and did something about it. For this, the writer calls her a disciple – the only woman so-called in Scripture. Dorcas would have been a member of Tongue and Thimble.

Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2) was considered a saint of the church by Paul and he entrusted to her the delivery of his important letter to the Romans. She is described as a “servant of the church” living in Cenchrea in Corinth. She had ministered to many and to Paul in particular. Paul instructs the Romans to aid her in any way necessary. Was Phoebe a rich woman that could afford to travel? Did she sail to Rome or go overland? Did she travel alone? Did she ever return to Cenchrea or did she die in Rome as a martyr like Paul and so many other Christians? We can’t answer these questions but we do know that Paul would have chosen the best person possible to carry his epistle. Phoebe would have served on our Missions Committee.

These three women are honored by the Lutheran Church on 27 January each year. In Fowler Library the section 220.92 contains many books that describe the women of the Bible and the work they did in obeying and spreading the Word.

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Happy New Year! I am excited to start 2016 and see all of the fun things that will happen at the preschool this year. We are already halfway through our school year and have done so many

wonderful things. This month, our children will be learning about winter and winter animals. In some classes, children will bring in a stuffed animal to "hibernate" and others will make snow and ice cream!

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, February 3!** The preschool will be hosting a Wednesday Night Dinner. The money raised will go toward financial scholarships for families needing assistance to attend the preschool. Many of our preschool families will be there helping prepare the dinner, doing crafts and activities with children and cleaning up.

We have finalized our class offerings for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms and enrollment procedures can be picked up downstairs in the preschool area or can be downloaded from the church web site. We begin registration January 11th, with priority given to St. Paul's members. We will offer classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. I will be conducting tours of the school beginning in January. Our school year runs September through May. If you are interested in our Preschool & PMO for next year, please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Young In Spirit

January 13, 2016

11:30 am

Ayr Mount Plantation visit

Young In Spirit is traveling back in time in January to visit the 1815 Federal era plantation called Ayr Mount in Hillsborough. Wm. Kirkland named the house in honor of his birthplace, Ayre, Scotland. It has a grand interior of 14'



Fun for Seniors

ceiling height. The federal period woodwork and plaster are included in the first major residence built of brick in a time of predominately colonial era

wood frame houses. Come join us for the tour which costs \$12.00. After the tour we will lunch in

downtown Hillsborough. We will meet at church at 11:00 am to travel to the plantation. Deadline to sign up is **Sunday, January 12.** (We need 10 people to cover the \$120 fee). Information brochures are on the receptionist desk where the sign-up is.

Campus Ministry Call Committee

by Amanda Stoen, Chairperson

The Campus Ministry Call Committee continues to move forward in our search for a full-time campus minister at Duke. The call committee reached out to each candidate with additional questions pertaining specifically to campus ministry experience as well as fund-raising experience. This position requires experience with both and the committee has been working hard to find a candidate with both experiences. The committee will begin formal interviews in January. We will continue to update you as we progress. Thank you for your continued prayers as the call committee works together to find our new Duke Campus Minister.

God's Gifts and Call

We're planning an ongoing discussing beginning at the start of Lent to talk about God's gifts and God's call on our lives. This is an opportunity for anyone who is 13 to 113. With some added elements about spirituality and the ways stewardship is about more than just our money, we'll begin this experience by working through Financial Peace University. Watch for more information in the February *Cross Connections*, or talk to Vicar Joseph if you are interested.

IHN Thank You

by Ellen Lavery and Margot Wuebbens



We hosted another successful week with two families through IHN. We had three adults and six children as our guests. A big thank you goes to all who were a part of this endeavor. We would like to thank Curt Hahn, Anita Johnson, Kim and Tim Hoke, Betty Hinshaw, Nancy Anderson, Dotte Williams, Dick Havill and Rachel Harter, Renee Staehle, Barbara Ellertson, Audrey Busch, Rebecca Jules, Carol Sackett, Robin Winfree,

Heidi York, Naomi Watson, Nancy Clendaniel, Margaret Simis, Sue Dahl, Lois Kinzie, and Ida Elliott. We will be hosting again the week of February 21-28. We look forward to having even more volunteers to share in the experience in February.

IHN Christmas Gifts

The Women's Connection

We were able to brighten the Christmas Season for 31 individuals through the generosity of many members of our congregation. Thank you to all who participated in this much appreciated ministry!

Recycle/Repurpose

A newly formed committee is looking at ways that people at St. Paul's can take care of God's beautiful creation by recycling and repurposing things we use. Each month we will have suggestions or ideas of ways that you can do your part in *Caring for Creation!*

There are already some good things that we are doing here at St. Paul's! There are blue recycling bins for collection of paper, empty water bottles and soda cans. The brown recyclable coffee cups (in Trinity Hall) can be recycled – but please, empty any contents. The cups need not be washed. (Even better would be to bring your own coffee mug if you are a frequent coffee drinker at church.) We have a container for used eyeglasses for the Lion's Club to repurpose. Women's connection has been collecting pill bottles. Lots of good things are already being done, but there are many other things that we can be doing at church and at home.

January's tips of the month:

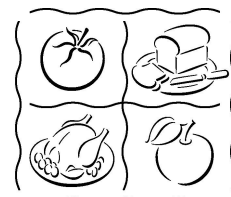
- ▶ Use cloth shopping bags for groceries. If you do prefer the plastic or paper bags, they can be recycled
- ▶ Cut back on paper towel usage. Instead, invest in a few cotton cloths and some fabric napkins. Using the cloth alternative is just as easy as using the paper version and you only need to buy them once – plus you can help eliminate the 3,000 tons of paper towels that end up in landfills every day.

Blessings and thanks to everyone for the generous Christmas gifts to the staff. We are very appreciative every day at St. Paul's – Susan, Jackie, and Joseph!



Healthy Living Series

The HealthyLiving Series will begin at St. Paul's on Friday, January 8 at 10:00 am. Come for coffee and a cookie, then hear a representative from the Durham County Health Department discuss HYPERTENSION. There will be a powerpoint presentation of basic information, discussion and time for questions and answers. This series will be mostly for those over age 50 but will be informative topics for all. February's (Feb 12) topic will be Diabetes.



Healthy Living Tips

The Katherine Circle

January will be the Katherine Circle's Epiphany Potluck on Tuesday, January 19 with the Tuesday work crew as guests. We will gather at 10:00 am for our meeting and then have lunch at 11:30 followed by our own resident magician, Larry Lloyd, for entertainment. All are invited and encouraged to bring canned goods for the St. Paul's pantry.



Adult Education Sunday Schedule

The Adult Sunday School meets in Whitesell Hall at 9:45-10:45 am weekly. Here is the upcoming schedule of leaders and topics.

- Jan 3 Time with the Pastor
- Jan 10 The Arts and Epiphany by Janet Seiz, "The Wisemen"
- Jan 17 The Arts and Epiphany by Janet Seiz, "The Baptism of Jesus"
- Jan 24 Insight about World Religions by Judy Schlegel, "Islam"
- Jan 31 Insight about World Religions by Judy Schlegel, "Buddhism"
- Feb 7 Insight about World Religion by Judy Schlegel, "Hinduism"

Salt & Light (Matthew 5:13-16)**Service of Prayer of Christian Unity**

January 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Holy Cross Catholic Church

2438 S. Alston Ave, Durham, NC 27713

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland

Director of NC Council of Churches

After the worship service, there will be
time for food and fellowship.***The Community Café Thanks Its Volunteers!!!***

Thank you to all of the people who volunteered on the third Saturday of each month of 2015 in the Community Café at the Urban Ministries of Durham.



The list is long and includes the following groups: the Choir, the Youth Group, the Duke Lutherans, the Women's Connection, the Tuesday Work Group, SPAM, the Church Council, and the Stephen Ministers. Many individuals also worked; some of these people worked with groups as well as individuals more than once: Ann Giehl, Amanda Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Mike Mauriello, Rebecca Jules, Audrey Busch, Robin Winfree, Penny Winfree, Penni Perrotte, Marilyn Hawley, Curtis Chi, Betty Hinshaw, Joseph O'Donnell, Curt Hahn, Marcia and Dean Redman. Please forgive me if I missed anyone. Everyone is greatly appreciated. We hope that more of the congregation will spread their wings and try giving 2.5 hours of a Saturday some time next year to serve lunch to our community. It is not difficult and you may even find it surprisingly enjoyable! Look for a request for volunteers in an upcoming newsletter!

Urban Ministry Food Donations**December 2015 Update**

Thank you to all who contributed food to the Urban Ministries December food drive for their food pantry. We collected 640.2 lbs. of food, which was greatly appreciated. Last year our food drive collected over 2,000 lbs. of food so you can see that we were significantly down this year. Their food pantry serves

families, which are referred to them from Social Services, ONCE a month only; however they serve 13 families per day, 5 days a week. So you can see that they are always in great need of food to share with the members of the Durham community, who are in the greatest need. If you did not contribute to the collection in December and would like to help, please consider a monetary donation. You can always place a check in the collection plate made out to St. Paul's with the line item "Urban Ministries food bank" and the money will be delivered to the Urban Ministries.

You can also drop food in the baskets by the main doors at any time. This can be any type of non-perishable foods, paper goods, hygiene items, all new and nothing past expiration date. These items are delivered to the Urban Ministries when the baskets are full, by John and Jane Hurlburt – many thanks to them for making sure our donations get downtown for us!

Pill Bottle Collection has ended!

Thanks to all who participated in the collection for medicine bottles. It was discontinued because the program stopped at the end of the year 2015. Our large box of pill bottles will be on their way.

Congregational Council

We welcome our newest council members who were elected at the Dec. Congregational Meeting:

- ▶ Marilyn Bell-Hawley
- ▶ Maria Chi
- ▶ Bonnie Cooper
- ▶ George Seiz

They join the other council members:

Amanda Anderson	Morris Casper
Mike Mauriello	Marcia Redman
Barbara Ellertson	Ken Land
Emily Vardell	Dotte Williams

We thank the following members whose terms expired at the end of 2015:

- ▶ Betty Hinshaw
- ▶ Signe Offenberg
- ▶ Chris Stoen
- ▶ Steve York

Mike Mauriello will serve as President for 2016. Other officers will be elected at the Council Retreat on January 9.

In the mailbag...

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful engraved plaque you sent to me. The words meant so much as I shared it with all at our Christmas party.

The years we spent with you all were written permanently for Linda and Me and our Family.

Yours,
Pastor Charlie

* * * * *

Thank you for your gift of \$500 through Urban Ministries of Durham to offer neighbors food, shelter and a future.



Like many people who come to UMD homeless, Ralph Hall is a middle-aged single man who had lost hope. For the past several months, I've seen Ralph each night in the Community Café getting ready to work with his kitchen crew to help serve and clean up after dinner. I'd tell him good evening as I headed for the parking lot. About a month and a half ago, I noticed Ralph was wearing a neon yellow shirt with the C.T. Wilson Construction Company logo on it. I asked him about it, and he said, "Yes, the man from C.T. Wilson was here at the Rebuilding Lives lunch, and he hired a couple of us on the spot!"

We shared the joy of that moment. Night after night since then, I've seen Ralph in his work shirt, beaming with pride, volunteering to help in the kitchen here after a strenuous day of construction work, and it's made me so happy to see him wearing that badge of accomplishment. Earlier this week, I asked Ralph how the job was going, and he smiled even bigger: "Man, it's going great. Matter of fact, I've been saving my money, and I've just signed the lease on a one-bedroom apartment. I'm moving out of here on Friday." He will spend the holidays and the new year in his own home, once again able to support himself. Ralph is no longer homeless for two reasons: Because he worked really hard to improve his life, and because you offered him help through UMD in the form of shelter and a connection to a job.

Your gifts give Ralph and hundreds of your other neighbors in similar situations 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. You also help Ralph and others find a job and end their homelessness permanently. In the last full fiscal year:

- You provided 52,506 nights of shelter to an average of 148 people a night, including families with children

- You fed hungry people 259,793 meals in our Community Café, some 712 daily
- You distributed groceries and clothing to an average 487 households in need each month
- You helped end homelessness for 237 people.

Thank you, St. Paul's Friends!

Let's keep it going

Bryan Gilmer

Director of Marketing and Development, UMD

* * * * *

Kathy and I want to thank the congregation for the wonderful and generous Christmas gift. We are so blessed to be a part of the fellowship of St. Paul's. Your continued prayer, support and love enriches our lives and lifts us up daily. God bless you always.

Pastor Scott

Saints of the Month

We recognize the wonderful Trinity Kitchen Crew, led by Karen Hassett. The volunteers created a beautiful Christmas atmosphere in Trinity Hall in which to enjoy the wonderful food and fellowship. Thank you all!

Congratulations

We congratulate The Rev. Dr. David Franzen who has passed his oral examination for Diplomate certification in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC). Diplomate is the highest level of certification in AAPC. It is a qualification for teaching pastoral counseling in seminaries and divinity schools, and for supervising pastoral counselors in training.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

- ✠ family and friends of Ruth Filyaw, by Penni Perrotte
- ✠ family and friends of Betty Jean Craig, aunt of Pat Casper, who died Nov. 20, 2015
- ✠ Paulette, Lauren, and Caroline Joyce upon the death of their father and husband, John Joyce by Jackie Nappi
- ✠ family and friends of **Nancy Taylor** who died on Saturday, December 12. Her private funeral was held at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 19 in the Columbarium.

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Durham, NC 27705-5731

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Holy Baptism

We welcomed by Holy Baptism:

- † On December 24, 2015, **Abigail Grace O'Neill**, daughter of Dorothy O'Neill and Bret O'Neill. Abigail was born on July 21, 2015. Sponsors are Hannah O'Neill, James Clayton, and Jason Pattison.
- † On January 3, 2016, **Alden Pritchard Monroe**, son of Beth and Drew Monroe. Alden was born on September 25, 2015.



Photographs!

If you and your family have taken photographs over the holidays, please consider sending a JPG to the church (admin@stpaulsdurham.org) so we can include it in the St. Paul's pictorial directory in 2016. Over the next couple months, we will begin taking new photos to replace some for families who have added children, are new to the congregation or those who just want to update their photo!

Growing Thru Grief

Growing thru Grief is a coalition of area churches and organizations who offer support and education for those who mourn, centered on small group discussion. We meet every Tuesday, gathering at 4 pm for coffee and cookies, and the meeting runs from 4:30-6:00 pm. Here is the schedule through January:

- Jan 5 Small group review of the holidays
 - Jan 12 Bill Dahl on reading resources to help those who mourn
 - Jan 19 Rev. Scott Anderson on Anger with God
 - Jan 26 Small group discussion
- For more information, growingthrugrief@gmail.com.

Acolytes and Crucifers

The worship committee invites all youth in the 5th grade and up, as well as adults to consider serving during the worship services as acolytes, crucifers, or spirit flag bearers. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Anderson or Bonnie Cooper.

We will also be training Junior Crucifers if there are children 3rd grade through kindergarten who would like to participate in the worship by carrying the small crucifix in front of the pastor during the opening and closing hymns. Again, contact Pastor Anderson or Bonnie Cooper to participate.

Memorials Received

We received a memorial in memory of Dale O. Stouch, Jr. by James and Cynthia Stouch, York, PA.

Annual Reports!

Committee chairs and leadership:

Your Annual reports are due to Susan Esposito by **Monday, January 18**. Annual reports are part of the Annual Yearbook. They should come from each committee and active group within St. Paul's. Content should include membership of your committee and what has been accomplished in 2015. You are welcome to look through the calendar in the church office and/or issues of *Cross Connections*, kept in a notebook in the staff office. Reports can be left in Susan's mailbox, mailed to her at the church office, or emailed to admin@stpaulsdurham.org. Contact Susan if you have any questions.

