

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

April 2017

Lent is our Journey to Easter

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

12 noon and 7 pm - Wednesday - April 5

Mid-Week Lenten Supper

5:45 pm - Wednesday - April 5

A Lenten Journey: Biblical Stations of the Cross

12:00 noon - Friday - Apr 7



Palm Sunday

8:30 and 11:00 am Worship - April 9

Palm Sunday will be different this year for St. Paul's. It will actually be "Palm Sunday." For a number of years, the church has celebrated the day beginning with the story of the Palm Sunday arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem and then moved on through the service reading the full Passion Narrative. We have decided to concentrate on the Palm Sunday story and let people hear the Passion story as it unfolds on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. We hope you will join us for all the Holy Week services in preparation for the joy of Easter Sunday morning.

Holy Week

- ❖ Maundy Thursday, April 13, services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm
- ❖ Good Friday, April 14, services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm
- ❖ Vigil of Easter, April 15, service at 7:00 pm
- ❖ Easter Sunday, April 16, services at 8:30 and 11:00 am with Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am and Egg Hunt at 10:15 am

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Susan B. Holland, Vicar

Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Lutheran Campus Pastor

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

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From the Pastor

Our devotion booklet begins the month with a quote from Psalm 50:

*The heavens declare his
righteousness, for God himself is
judge.*

Eugene Peterson says: "God gathers everyone before him in a great judgment scene. It is an awesome sight: God shines forth. We do not live to ourselves – everything we do is in relation to the God who made us and cares for us."

April brings Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Easter breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and the beginning of the 50 days of the Easter season. April is a time of spring and new beginnings. It is a time of eternal optimism when the weather is not too hot or too cold. It is just right.

That's God's plan for us to be dwelling together – just right.

Righteousness is God's plan, God's hope and our salvation.

As we wind up the Lenten season, I want to rejoice and give thanks for all those who prayerfully prepared our Lenten devotion booklets. It has been well received and many have found the reflections meaningful and helpful during this season. So thanks to all who wrote and compiled this booklet.

Because April is a time of new beginnings, it is also a time to make sure we don't leave things undone or unsaid. It has come to my attention and the attention of the congregation council that some people are unaware of our new relationship with Wildflower cottage Daycare, which is a 501c3 non-profit organization. The council and I are very sorry for any mis-communication or lack of communication concerning the Daycare currently operating in Whitesell Hall. The council in its continuing efforts to manage our finances and grow our ministry began working with Wildflower Cottage some 18-20 months ago. We had the Director come and speak with the congregation and share her vision. There was a committee formed to meet with their board of directors and explore possibilities. They continue to be interested in utilizing the Damascus House in the future and working with our senior members to find ways to interact with them and their children. Council approved the lease of the Whitesell Hall space in November and for three weeks we ran an informational insert in the bulletin. We have negotiated a lease with Wildflower that returns revenue that will help us manage the debt on the Damascus House and during

the lease period we will evaluate the relationship to determine how to proceed in the future. For now, Wildflower will lease the space in Whitesell through 2018 and then we will determine if the relationship will continue and in what form.

Council is meeting in additional working sessions every month to formulate a plan of action for the use or sale of the Damascus House. As they formulate a plan the congregation will be invited to participate in discussion and review of the plan before any final determination on the use of the Damascus House is finalized. For now we are looking at using the house as Vicar housing beginning in August, but even that plan is still undetermined.

Any questions related to Damascus House, Wildflower Cottage or other issues can always be directed to the congregation council or the pastor.

God's Peace,
Pastor Scott

Attitude of Gratitude

by Vicar Sue Holland

One of the things I love about worship here at St. Paul's is that we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday; actually every chance we get. Holy Communion is also called the Eucharist from the Greek word which means Thanksgiving. In our liturgy, the Meal portion of our service begins with the Great Thanksgiving. Pastor says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," and we respond with, "It is right to give our thanks and praise." I love that we start each week with an "attitude of gratitude" for all that God does for us and especially for God's blessings of forgiveness and salvation in Jesus and I love that we are then sent out into the world with this attitude of gratitude to be blessings to others.



At the end of April, we will begin a three part Adult Sunday School series on gratitude. On the following Sunday, guest speaker Jane Ransom will share with us the latest scientific findings about how an attitude of gratitude and serving others affects your neurobiology and psychology. Jane is an international speaker and author and has been featured in a recent TED talk on this same subject. On the final Sunday in the series, May 14, representatives from our Stewardship committee will lead us in an open forum discussion about living with gratitude where we can all share ways of incorporating an attitude of gratitude into our

daily lives.

The weeks following Easter when we are celebrating and rejoicing in the resurrection and God's victory over sin and death for us seem like a good time to contemplate an attitude of gratitude. I hope you will join us in Trinity Hall on April 30 - May 14 at 9:45.

Pilgrimage

by Pastor Laura Wind

What happens to a pilgrim's feet is important. Also important is what happens to the head and the heart. Pilgrimage is about willingness to open ourselves however briefly to the divine in the world around us, to trust that the "flash of revelation" will come. We do not know what form it will take or when it will arrive.

On Pilgrimage: Sacred Journey's around the World by Susan Westerwood

We were pilgrims; four of us, headed to meet with forty three other pilgrims and to walk on the land that Luther walked, but first we had to get there. When we arrived at JFK airport in NYC we first heard the rumors – the ground crew in Tegel (TXL) Berlin were staging a strike. I ran to the Aer Lingus desk, we had a stop in Dublin before we made it to Germany, to try to confirm the rumor. "No, No, everything is fine." Until it wasn't. Yes there was a strike. "We can get you to Dublin tonight, or we have four seats on a flight to Hamburg." Not knowing how long it would possibly take us to get into Berlin, we opted for Hamburg. Fortunately, DJ Chatelaine had spent time in Germany and was able to reserve us four seats on the train to Berlin. After the train to the other train station, we were off and gone, at exactly 12:36. German trains wait for no one. The adventure had begun.

So from the beginning, we opened ourselves up to trust. We had no control, over the striking workers, over our luggage. No control about when we would actually meet up with the group from Chapel Hill. We had stepped through the portal and put ourselves entirely in God's hands.

And the flashes of revelation came: for me, at the church where Luther was baptized and the juxtaposition of the modern, beautiful baptismal font, and the 500 year old crucifix of Jesus being held in the arms of God the Father, complete with hair – not human but from a horse. The juxtaposition of a secular society where only 11% of the population is religious, but a country that is proud of its heritage and preparing to celebrate Martin Luther's 500th Anniversary of nailing the 95 Theses to the church door at Wittenberg.

The flashes of revelation came for the students and me as well as we toured Buchenwald, one of the earliest camps dating to 1933, and witnessed the sober solemnity of the camp. After the tour we gathered around a memorial commemorating those who lost their lives. A simple gray granite marker flush with the ground, adorned with fresh flowers, roses, carnations, and maintained at a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees – the average temperature of a person. We gathered in prayer, using the Jewish prayer for atonement. As I sang Baruch attah adonai (Blessed are you O Lord) our pilgrims came forward to touch the memorial. Then we stood in silence, because there are no words for that revelation.

And other revelations happened as well, friendships among college students, the energy of forty or so young people, meeting up with more college students from App State in Wittenberg. New friendships, and devotions, and worship, and reflection, and communion, and bread broken, and the wine of compassion poured out, and we were bathed anew in the waters of baptism.

Certainly our pilgrim feet were challenged, but our pilgrim hearts and minds were opened to the divine around us. As part of our time, we wrote daily haiku, a Japanese form of poetry that captures a moment in time, a way to be aware to the divine around us. And so walked through the

Portal – new gateway
To the sacred path of a
Grace searching pilgrim.

Thank you for your support. Without your support, we pilgrims would not have experienced this transformation.

God's peace,
Pastor Laura

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen, Director

During the month of March, our preschoolers painted garden pots and we included seed packets for our service project to support the Durham CROP Walk. The pots are available for \$5 and the money we raise from the

sale of the garden pots will be given to the CROP Walk. We had a visit from the CROP Walk organizers who talked to the children about being Hunger Heroes. We are excited to join the church in supporting the

CROP Walk this year!

During the month of April, our preschool will be collecting new and gently used children's books for Book Harvest, a local group who provides books to children who need them, and engages families and communities to promote children's lifelong literacy and academic success. Donation bins will be located in the narthex and downstairs in the preschool hallway.

Registration for summer camp and the 2017-18 school year has begun. Additional information can be picked up downstairs in the preschool area or can be downloaded from our new web site – <http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com> . If you are interested or know if anyone who is, please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Here – in God's Garden

by George Seiz

Mark your calendars – **Outside workday scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 am until noon.** Open to all – members, family and friends. Come for the



entire period or whenever you can make it. Work projects will include such fun activities as leaf removal,

spreading of mulch and soil, removal of weeds and scrub trees. Bring work gloves, leaf and garden rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, a good work ethic and some muscles. Lunch will be provided.

A core group of church members continue to provide care for the many trees, shrubs, and flowers on the church campus. **There is a lot to take care of. More help is needed and always welcomed.** If you are interested in working with the Saturday morning outdoor work group or working at a time during the week when you're available, please contact George Seiz at geoseiz@aol.com, 919-824-0130, or preferably talk to him in person on Sunday morning. No special skills required. The group typically meets on Saturday mornings from roughly 9 am till 11 am depending on work load and weather. **You don't need to be there every Saturday and hours are flexible.**

This is a chance to: be a good steward of the earth; build community; do something with a friend or family member; take pride in your accomplishments; get some exercise; have some fun.

St. Paul's & Urban Ministries

Update Jan-March 2017

by Nancy Dewhirst

Thanks to all of the groups that have served in the Community Café thus far this year. January – Youth group; February – Duke Lutherans; March – choir; April – Women's Connection.

Any other group or committees that are interested in working in the Community Café this year, please get in touch with me so I can put you on the schedule! (nancydewhirst@yahoo.com). We need volunteers to cover the remainder of the year! If you have a group of friends who would like to work together, let me know! College students – give something back to the community where you grew up! Mothers of little ones who want to have a few hours without the kids (leave 'em with Dad!) – this is for you! Sunday school classes, bible study groups, committees serving the church – ALL ARE WELCOME AND NEEDED!

Next time for volunteers will be **May 21**.

Please think about working, even if you have never done it before. There is no experience required and I guarantee that you will get more intangible benefits in return than what time you give! Only 2.5 hours is needed every third Saturday of the month! No cooking required – only preparation and serving is done. Try it this summer – I promise that you will like it!

Also remember to bring in items for the **food pantry** at the Urban Ministries and leave them in the baskets by the doors. Canned goods, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, canned meats, instant coffee, diapers, personal items like deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary items. Keep your eyes glued for sales and pick up things when you see them! Last delivery to the UMD we took **125.3 pounds** of food and **16.9 pounds** of hygiene products. Way to go St. Paul's!! Donations such as ours are what keep many people in Durham eating so don't forget to include them when you go shopping!

Thanks to you we're having a ball...

On March 12 after the 11 o'clock service, we dedicated our new Ga-ga ball pit and youth of all ages played several inaugural games. Since then, the pit has been used by our youth groups and the cub scouts, and a good time has been had by all. We are looking forward to enjoying many hours of fun and fellowship in the pit. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in

financing and supporting this project. The Middle and High School Youth Group would like to especially thank Dean Redman, George Seiz, and Morris Casper and all the advisors and parents who came out and spent many hours with us clearing the site, hauling the gravel and cutting lumber.

Continuing Conversations

Reflections by Dr. McKissick-Melton

On Sunday, March 5, Dr. Charmaine McKissick-Melton joined us to share history of her family during the civil rights era in Durham. Nearly 55 people gathered to listen and share soup and sandwiches after the 11:00 am worship service. It was sobering to hear about the hardships endured during that time. At the age of three, Dr. McKissick walked the picket line at Durham's Royal Ice Cream Parlor. In 1959, her sister Jocelyn was one of the first students to attend formerly all-white Durham High School.

Social Activism was always a focal point for the McKissick family: Charmaine's father, Floyd Sr. was a native of Asheville. His participation with civil rights began when he became a member of the NAACP at the age of 12. As a 13-year-old Boy Scout helping to direct traffic during a roller-skating tournament in his hometown, McKissick was pushed to the ground by a white police officer. He would recount later that this incident secured his involvement in civil rights. Floyd, Sr. became the first African-American to integrate the law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1955, McKissick established a law firm in Durham that was involved with civil rights issues. His clients included the first black undergraduates to attend UNC-Chapel Hill. In 1966, he became leader of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality, taking over from founder James L. Farmer, Jr.

In 1968, Floyd Sr. left CORE to found Soul City in Warren County, North Carolina, a new community intended to reverse the out-migration of minorities and the poor to urban areas. Soul City was a town intended for all people, but placed emphasis on providing opportunities for minorities and the poor. For his venture, McKissick received funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, First Pennsylvania Bank, the state of North Carolina, and private donors. With this funding, McKissick built a state-of-the art water system, a health care clinic, and a massive steel-and-glass factory named Soultech.

Rev. Michael Wendt (retired Pastor of Abiding Savior, Durham) joined the conversation to share details of the Lutheran church's role during the Soul City era. The Interfaith Committee was a group of

several churches in the Triangle that supported the efforts of Soul City, both financially and through volunteer services. The Church of the Abiding Savior Lutheran, was one of those churches. Rev. Wendt, along with other church members, provided their expertise and services, including Marilyn Hawley who helped establish the childcare program in Soul City as a Montessori preschool, and Geneva Fitts, aunt of Gregory Hudgins, who served on the Board of HealthCo, Soul City's health center that continued operation for several years. Soul City was projected to have 24,000 jobs and 44,000 inhabitants by the year 2004. While the community did not achieve the expected level of success, it is still inhabited with some businesses still in existence today.

Today, McKissick-Melton is a professor of communications at North Carolina Central University, and lectures widely on civil rights and race relations. She inspired us with her positive spirit and compassion as we work to learn how to move forward together.

Continuing Conversations

by Vicar Sue Holland

Upcoming Events at St. Paul's:

- **Wednesday, April 19: Mix-It up Meal**
Once again, glad thanks to everyone who contributed to the February Mix-It-Up meal: about 60 folks gathered and shared food from India, Mexico, Asia, the Caribbean and more. For our next meal on April 19, the Continuing Conversation group will provide several kinds of rice; you're invited to bring a crockpot of any dish that can be served over rice. Join us for culinary and interpersonal adventures!
 - **Saturday, April 29: Civil Rights Walking Tour** in Downtown Durham, led by Barbara Ellertson. In the early 1960s, the Durham Arts Council building was City Hall; it was the site of massive protests that were part of desegregation efforts. On Saturday morning, April 29, we'll meet at the church at 9:30 and then car pool to the Arts Council. Cathy Abernathy and Bee Ellertson will lead a 1.5-hour gentle stroll through downtown, revisiting Durham's civil rights history by relating interviews with citizens who were part of that time of upheaval and change. This is the same tour conducted every third Saturday by Preservation Durham, so if you can't join us on April 29, you could take the tour another time. But we hope you can!
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Upcoming Events in the community:

- **Saturday, April 1, 2017:** Homecoming Celebration of national Historic Landmark Designation of the Pauli Murray House here in Durham. Event includes NHL Plaque ceremony, community party, exhibits, arts activities, and walking tours. See <http://paulimurrayproject.org/homecoming-celebration-of-national-historic-landmark-designation-saturday-april-1-2017/> for more details.
- **Thursday, April 6, 7 PM:** Art, Activism, Race and the Law – Panel Discussion at the Nasher Museum of Art inspired by themes in the exhibition Nina Chanel Abney: Royal Flush. The panel will discuss the complex dynamics of race and the law, public policy, the justice system and art activism. With William A. Darity, Jr., Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy at Duke; Jillian Johnson, Durham City Councilwoman and director of operations at Southern Vision Alliance; Trina Jones, Duke Law professor; and Sherrill Roland, Greensboro artist, activist and creator of the Jumpsuit Project. No tickets needed. Free and open to the public. See <http://archive.skem1.com/csb/Public/show/fd121-bz5w-1v9nk4r8> and www.nasher.duke.edu for more details.

Stephen Ministry

We all experience life's challenges, times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready and equipped to provide the emotional and spiritual care we all can benefit from when faced with various transitions or other difficult times.

Stephen Ministers are ready to care! What motivates them to serve? Some responses to that question from a couple of our Stephen Ministers:

- "There have been times of crisis and loss in my life when I have experienced a great need for support and caring, and God provided that for me. And now Stephen Ministry has created an opportunity for me to give back."
- "When my mother was dying, she had few visitors, but St. Paul's Pastor and Stephen Leaders were among them. Although it was a tough situation, Stephen Ministers seemed comfortable walking right in to the illness and sorrow with compassion and presence. Stephen training taught me that we can be equipped to "be with" each other, no matter what the situation."

STEPHEN MINISTRY: CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE: Would you prayerfully look into whether you might consider serving by training for this ministry? The "pay" isn't much, but the benefits and blessings are 'out of this world!' We welcome your questions and interest!

Sincerely,

Pastor Scott, Judy Kraska, Nan Truel, Audrey Busch, Stephen Leaders

A Credit Union that Shares your Values

The ELCA Federal Credit Union was created by the ELCA to provide a wide variety of financial services to ELCA members, employees of synods, congregations and other ELCA-related ministries. Every member is also an owner, with a vote in how the credit union conducts business. With the church as our sponsor, the ELCA Federal Credit Union operates in ways that are consistent with the church's values.

And because the ELCA Federal Credit Union is a financial cooperative, any earnings are returned to members/owners like yourself in the form of lower rates on loans, higher rates on savings, reduced fees and enhanced services.

When you belong to the ELCA Federal Credit Union, you're part of a financial cooperative, and the money you save is loaned out to other members. So take advantage of better interest rates than you'll find at many other financial institutions and help fellow Lutherans.

Our sympathy to the family of Fred Matthews, step-father of Tony Perrotte.

In the mailbox...

Dear church congregation,

Thank you for helping me raise money for the American Heart Association. Together we raised \$120.00! That money will help children in need of heart surgery. Thank you for helping me.

Sincerely, Anders Offenbergh

Memorial Received

A memorial has been received in memory of Joyce Harless by Tony and Penni Perrotte, Durham.

Youth Ministry News

Next Gen Youth Group
(3rd to 5th Graders)

Calling All Youth!

BYG at Camp Agape!
Friday-Sunday, April 21-23

th th

Summer Camp Opportunities
at Camp Agape

Upcoming Next Gen Events:

- ▶
- ▶

th

Upcoming MS/HS Youth Group
Events:

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Middle School/High School
Youth Group

For St. Paul's families with 3rd-6th
Graders!

Youth Group Meeting! Sunday,
April 30 - 12:30-3

Children's Sunday School
th

MS/HS Sunday School

Other Upcoming Camp Agape
Events:

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering!

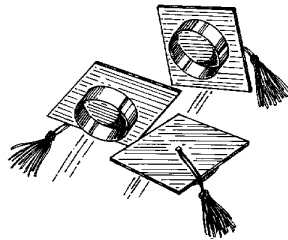
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Parents of High School Seniors

Please send Vicar Sue information about your child's upcoming graduation (graduation date and high school) and future plans so we can prepare to recognize and celebrate this major milestone in their lives and send our seniors off with a blessing.

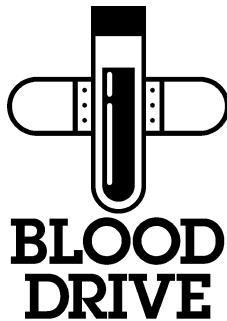


Katherine Circle of WELCA

The Katherine Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 18 in Trinity Hall at 10:00 am. Joan Albright will direct the group in the making of prayer beads. Devotions will be led by Nan Truel. Hostesses will be Nancy Anderson and Nan Truel. All women are invited to attend.

Mark your Calendars for Sunday, April 30th

St. Paul's will host a **blood drive for the American Red Cross** in Trinity Hall from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm. There is a sign up posted for volunteers. We had 50 people sign up last time and we hope to break that record this time with 60 volunteers. Please consider whether you can join us in giving this gift of life to others. You can save 15-20 minutes of your wait time by pre-registering for the event on line. Contact Signe Offenberg or Warren Pusak with any questions.



2017 Vacation Bible School

**Maker Fun Factory:
 Created by God, Built for a Purpose!**

June 19-23, 2017 -
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Aftercare will be available. Registration forms will be available by Easter.



Hard Boiled Eggs needed!

On Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday) the children will be decorating hard-boiled eggs which will then be donated to the Urban Ministries Community Café for their lunches. If you can bring donations of hard-boiled eggs to the Trinity Kitchen, there will be a box available to place them in. They will be decorating during the Sunday school time so donations need to be here by 9:30 AM on April 9. Many Thanks!



Young In Spirit

The April adventure for Young In Spirit is touring Duke Gardens on Wednesday, April 12 at 10:00 am. We will leave the church at **9:30 am**. Register by Friday, April 9 – we are limited to 10 people because it will be a riding tour. Cost for the tour is \$10/person. Make a check to St. Paul's, and indicate Gardens Tour on the memo line.

