

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*January 2017*

## Epiphany

Epiphany is coming January 8<sup>th</sup> instead of January 6<sup>th</sup>. Epiphany is the day we celebrate the Gentile World, the whole world coming to Jesus and Jesus being recognized as the light of and for the whole world. The Christmas season lasts 12 days and the next day is the day that we celebrate the Magi coming to visit Jesus.

This year Epiphany is January the 6<sup>th</sup> as always and that falls on a Friday. I really didn't think we would get many people during basketball season to a Friday night worship. But, this is such a special time for the church, we are going to celebrate the day on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be using the assigned readings for Epiphany Day.

In addition, I will ask the children and some adults present to carry flags of the nations into the worship space and place them in the Chancel area in front of the reredos. We will leave the flags in the sanctuary for the season following Epiphany prior to Lent. This is a visible reminder that Christ comes for the whole world.

The word *epiphany* itself means "to show," "make known," "to reveal," or, as suggested in the words of Luke 1:78, "to break upon us." The origins of the Epiphany celebrations are found in the Eastern Church, where connections were

made to the nativity, the Baptism of the Lord, and the miracle of Jesus' changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

The Western Church later linked this day to the visit of the Magi or Kings, which has since become the more dominant theme in many churches, such as those of Hispanic and Latin culture that observe *el Dia de los Tres Reyes*, "Three Kings Day."

In all of these examples, Jesus is revealed anew in a particular way: through birth, voice of God and descending spirit, miracle, or star. According to The Companion to the Book of Common Worship, while "Christmas marks the coming of God to us, Epiphany celebrates the appearance of the Lord in the midst of humanity."

While the day of Epiphany was once one of the primary festivals of the church along with Easter and Pentecost, over time it has lost its significance in many churches. Epiphany is still a time to worshipfully consider the hospitality that is most appropriate when we see Christ in friend and stranger – to welcome each guest as we would welcome Christ himself.

Pastor Scott

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 Campus Pastor

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

[pastor@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org)

[admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)

[music@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org)

[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org)

[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

[duke@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:duke@stpaulsdurham.org)

[crhugg@charter.net](mailto:crhugg@charter.net)

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 \* Fax: 919-490-1088 \* Website: [www.stpaulsdurham.org](http://www.stpaulsdurham.org)

Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA \* Twitter: #St\_Pauls\_Durham

## From the Pastor...

So, it's January and a new year and the world is making resolutions. I wondered that for us at St. Paul's. The Thursday morning Bible study Group is continuing to study Hebrews but will soon make the switch to studying The Lord's Prayer and that made me wonder what we could resolve as a class for the coming year.

How do we as a faithful people resolutely plan to be people of study and prayer this year? I wondered if there would be any interest within the congregation in reading the Bible in 90 Days beginning in Lent. There is an interesting Bible set up for this purpose and I'd be willing to lead some discussions with this if there would be an interest.

My personal resolution is to pray through the directory of the congregation every month. I plan to pray for each of you making sure to get to everyone during this practice.

In addition, I would like us to find ways to greet and welcome visitors on a more consistent basis. Several of our membership do this very well and I would like us to learn from people like the Clendaniels and Bonnie Cooper. We will begin putting together some handouts in plastic drink cups that can be given to visitors. I hope to have them by the middle of January to begin this practice.

I'd also like to see us go back to invite a friend to church Sundays – at least once a month. Anyone interested in helping me with this, please send me an email or talk to me on Sunday.

January is a time for resolutions, but it is also a time to remember that we do many things well and we are called to rejoice as we continue to serve God at St. Paul's.

*Pastor Scott Anderson*

## Celebrating our Youth

*by Vicar Sue Holland*

One of the greatest blessings I have received thus far from my time here at St. Paul's is getting to work with all of our youth from the youngest during children's sermons and in the preschool to our high school seniors. It gives me great joy every week to share the stories of God's love with the preschool children during chapel time. We pray together and "raise the roof" as we sing praises to God together. I equally love the enthusiasm and eagerness our elementary school age children are bringing to worship as acolytes and junior crucifers. The youth are excited to serve and be part of the worship team and it is a joy

to experience worship afresh through their eyes. I am humbled by the energy and dedication of our middle school and high school youth as they prepare to take on the world. They put so much work and love into their studies, athletics, music and everything they do. They are the future.

In the next few months, there will be a lot of activity around youth ministry focused on bringing the youth together. We will begin construction of our Ga-Ga Ball Pit next to the outdoor chapel giving us a place to gather and play together. We will also begin making plans and raising money for our youth to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas; a once every three year event where youth from across the country gather, worship, play and serve together.

By supporting activities like these, we are creating ways for our youth to develop relationships and a community in which to explore and live out their faith. In an article on youth ministry, Greg Stier wrote, "It's no secret that teens love hanging with other teens. Youth group gives them an opportunity to hang out, not just with other people their age, but teenagers of a like-hearted tribe. When teenagers worship with, learn with, play with and pray with other Christian teenagers, it steels and seals their faith in amazing ways. Of course this brand of koinonia (fellowship) needs to happen between teenagers and believers of all ages and stages within the church, but it also needs to happen between those with whom teens relate with the most ... other teenagers!" Stier argues that the community fostered by youth ministry can be a safe place for youth to ask hard questions and to explore their struggles in light of their faith.

I'm excited to be part of the youth ministry that is taking place here at St. Paul's. Please join me in prayer for our youth program: for the advisors, the parents and all the supporters that make it possible; for our youth, that they will be nurtured by their time together; and for us, that our youths' energy and enthusiasm ignite our faith.

## It's a New Year...



*by Pastor Laura Wind*

*Duke Lutheran Campus Minister*

Happy New Year and welcome to 2017 – the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Several students and I will be traveling to Germany with the

Campus Ministry group from Chapel Hill to visit important Luther sites during spring break this year. We have the opportunity to gather with the Carolina

group for educational events, including a tour of the Cranach paintings house at the Ackland museum. The students and I are looking forward to this trip. In addition to Luther sites, we will also be touring Buchenwald, and working with German youth at a youth hostel. This will be a wonderful opportunity to build community within our group.

Also, on the horizon, I will offer a contemplative prayer time at the Grace House for students and on campus as well. The time is to be determined and will be contingent on students' availability. Other collaborations include working with the Congregation at Duke Chapel to offer a bible study on First Corinthians.

Additionally, in February, I'll be going back to school – at least for part of a week. I will travel to Norfolk, Virginia to participate in ALDE (Association of Lutheran Development Executives). This continuing education event will help Duke Lutherans as we continue to work to develop relationships with donors and seek support for our program.

Finally, for me, in this new year, I want to be more intentional about practicing gratitude. So, thank you all for your support, for food for the students, for committee members who helped prepare our mailing, to colleagues who are always willing to listen and bend an ear, for this community whose rich worship life sustains me. For all who have welcomed me in my new role, I am truly grateful. I am excited about the new year with Duke Lutherans and how God is working and moving in this place. And to quote one of my favorite Sufi mystic poets, I can't wait to see what "love mischief" God and I are going to be up to in the new year. May the Holy Spirit blow us out of our comfort zones and into places where we can be transformed and bring God's transforming love to the world.

## Preschool Pitter Patter



*by Amanda Stoen  
Director*

Happy New Year! I am excited to start 2017 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 1! 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 to prepare, serve and clean up the dinner. Ours 3s and 4s classes will also sing some of their favorite songs from Chapel Time with Vicar Sue.

In December, our St. Paul's Gives Back service project collected hats, mittens and scarves for children in need.

We begin enrollment this month for the 2017-18 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 9, with priority given to St. Paul's members. We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, please contact me at the church or email:

[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org) for more information.

## Thank You!

Thank you from the Stewardship Committee to everyone who responded so generously with pledges on our Commitment Sunday in November.

Thank you to those who shared their thoughts about Stewardship during Temple Talks: Daniel Locke, Curt Hahn, Linda and John Foreman, William Timmons, Alice Barnes.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to talk with members of the committee and to provide quotes and stories for our bulletin inserts and brochure.

Thank you to Susan Esposito who managed the printing and details.

From all accounts, our results were very positive.

### Briefly:

- ▶ The challenge gifts were well-received.
- ▶ We received 20 more pledges on (and leading up to) Commitment Sunday as compared to Commitment Sunday last year.
- ▶ There are 9 brand new pledgers.
- ▶ There was about \$30K more pledges as compared to last year.
- ▶ There are 20 more people who signed up for Simply Giving (bank drafts) which will be helpful for stable, predictable offerings.

Although we did not get everything we had dreamed about, the budget is \$42K larger than last year. It encompasses:

- ▶ small raises for staff
- ▶ a fully-funded vicar
- ▶ mortgage payments of \$31K on the new mortgage for the house next door, which has been renamed Damascus House.

After 4 years of stagnant budget numbers and little/no salary increases for staff, we have a budget this year that does all of that!

In addition to that good news, if giving in December proves as good as last year, we can carry over \$65K into next year and will not have to take from Capital Reserves for the first time in many years.

Clearly, we are a generous congregation who understand God's abundance and shares from the abundance we have been given.

In 2017 you will see the Stewardship Committee launching a year-long program of Stewardship for all Seasons. We will be talking about stewardship of our time, our talents, and our treasures. We will offer educational programs about Planned Giving and Spiritual Gifts and maybe more.

If you have not filled out a pledge / commitment card, it's never too late to do that. Ask anyone on the Stewardship Committee to make sure you get a card. And PLEASE continue to talk with the members of the committee and to share your ideas.

THANK YOU!

## The Last Great Magician's Trick (in North Carolina)

*An ode presented at Larry Lloyd's farewell lunch by his fellow Tuesday Task Group guys, written by Jim Shoaf.*

The air has turned colder,  
the birds have headed south.  
His leaving was getting closer,  
passed by word of mouth.  
The Great Magician's Final Act  
was about to happen soon.  
No longer would he ply his tricks,  
in the eve or afternoon.

His former acts had been diverse,  
surprising each one's eye.  
He seemed to have a golden touch  
for everything he tried.  
His presence almost everywhere,  
his craft freely supplied.  
It's like a holy angel  
was always at our side.



At almost every church event,  
his set up was always ready.  
The light or sound or video,  
all worked fairly steady.  
Need some help with the music fare,  
He sings or violins to fill the air.

No big need arises to give fire a fear,  
The extinguishers he checked were all set near.  
The Trinity stage has grown year by year  
With all sorts of gadgets that have appeared.

With his house now set for a new resident,  
And its furnishings to Ohio soon to be sent,  
His end at St. Paul's will shortly draw near,  
The Great Magician will make himself disappear.

*Blessings to you Larry, as you finally get to reunite with your wife and family again. Good cheer go with you.*

## Thank you from the "Gifting Tree"

Forty stockings were placed on the "Gifting Tree" by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Many people wondered why it was in place so much earlier than past gifting ventures. We had been asked to provide our gifts earlier, to allow for timely delivery to Durham Urban Ministries. Our gifts are being used in a variety of ways. Some will be used directly as gifts and some will be used to help stock a "store" to allow parents and children to select a gift for their loved ones. The stockings disappeared very quickly. Many people seemed to appreciate this way of gifting. It was nice to have exact items to purchase and to not have to do any wrapping. As a congregation, we were able to provide 68 gift items and 33 various gift cards.

After the gifts disappeared, there was another request for bags of fresh produce. Again, we had an outpouring of generosity which yielded 22 bags of apples, citrus, pears and potatoes. They were delivered to Durham Urban Ministries and will be distributed to families who will enjoy this fresh food. Thank you to everyone who participated in this very meaningful ministry. You have helped to brighten many of our neighbors' Christmas Season.



# Youth Ministry News

## Next Gen Youth Group (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders)

3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, AND 5<sup>TH</sup> Graders! Come to the monthly meetings of Next Gen Youth Group for fun, fellowship and service. Email Vicar Sue at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) to receive emails about Next Gen activities or for more information.

### "Souper" Bowl Sunday!

Jan. 15 – 12:30-3 pm

We will gather after the 11 o'clock service in Trinity Hall to paint pottery bowls to auction off on February 5 (the day of the actual football event). Proceeds will benefit a local hunger relief agency. Lunch will be provided.

### BYG at Camp Agape! Friday - Sunday, April 21-23. Registration now underway.

On April 21-23, 2017, our Next Gen Youth group will be heading down to Camp Agape for a BYG (Building Youth Groups) weekend. We have room for the first 8 children who register with Vicar Sue by returning their registration forms along with a check for \$70; St. Paul's will pay the other half of the total registration fee of \$140. Full scholarships are also available.

This fee includes housing, program, and all meals from Saturday breakfast through Sunday lunch. Forms and more information are available on the Youth Ministry Bulletin board or can be received via email by contacting Vicar Sue at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org). Return forms and check to Vicar Sue as soon as possible to reserve your spot. The last day to return forms and money is Sunday, March 19.

For more information on the BYG retreat, see: <http://agapekurebeach.org/retreats/byg.html>.

### Future Next Gen Events:

- ▶ Sunday, Feb 19 - 12:30-3 - Bowling
- ▶ Sunday, Mar 19 - 12:30-3 - Casserole Cook-Off
- ▶ Friday-Sunday, Apr 21-23 - BYG at Camp Agape (Register Now! – see above)
- ▶ Sunday, May 21 - 12:30-3 - Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)



## Middle School/High School Youth Group

All middle and high school students are invited to attend MS/HS Youth Group and Sunday School events. Email Vicar Sue at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) to receive emails about youth group and Sunday School activities or for more information.

### Community Café!

Sat, Jan 21 – 10:30 AM

Gather at St. Paul's at 10:30 AM and head to Urban Ministries to serve lunch to folks in need of a meal.

### Ga-Ga Ball Pit Update!

The Ga-Ga Ball pit is a go-go! We've been approved by council to proceed, and plans and fund-raising are underway. Watch for emails containing more details and the construction schedule for our project.

### 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering!

Even though the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston is over a year away (June 27-July 1, 2018), it is time to start planning to attend now!

- Volunteer: If you will be at least 19 years old, have graduated and been out of high school for one year by the time of the Gathering and would like to volunteer at the Gathering, you must apply between May 15 - June 15, 2017. Go to <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/registration/volunteer-opportunities> for more details and to apply.
- Participants: Youth who are in 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade in September of 2017 are eligible to attend. Save the dates for the Gathering and watch this space for more details about the trip and fund-raising opportunities.

### Future MS/HS Youth Group Events:

- ▶ Friday-Saturday, Feb 24-25 – leave 5 PM Friday, return late Saturday – Ski Trip!
- ▶ Sunday, Mar 26 – time TBD – Dinner and worship with Duke Lutherans
- ▶ Sunday, Apr 30 – Rehearsal for Youth Sunday (May 7)
- ▶ Sunday, May 7 – 8-12 – Youth Sunday
- ▶ Sunday, May 21 – 12:30-3 – Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)



## Youth Ministry News (cont.)

### MS / HS Sunday School

- ◆ Dec 25 – Christmas Day – No Sunday School, Worship at 11, including our hymn visuals.
- ◆ Jan 1 – New Year's Day – No Sunday School, Worship at 11.
- ◆ Jan 8 – Sunday School resumes, we will discuss our next project. Meet in Youth Group room.

Email Vicar Sue at [vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) to receive MS/HS Youth emails.



YOUTH GROUP

### Worship Team Youth Members

Needed Every Sunday – You may have noticed a lot more youth participating in worship lately. We've been actively inviting the kids to be part of the worship team and they are not only doing a fantastic job in these roles, they are also enjoying being worship leaders. Our youth can participate in worship as Junior Crucifers, Acolytes, Torch Bearers, Bible Bearers, Crucifers, and Lectors depending on their age. This is a wonderful way for the youth to contribute to the life of the church and take an active role in worship. If your child would like to be part of a worship service, contact Vicar Sue ([vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)). We'll set up a time before the service to go over everything they need to know so they'll be ready.

### A Big Thank You!

A great big thank you with sugar, sprinkles and frosting on top to everyone who donated cookie making supplies for our December Youth Group Event. Both our Next Gen (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders) and our Middle School / High School Youth Groups gathered together on December 10 to bake and decorate mountains of cookies and make cards which we then gave to the two local fire departments that serve our community as well as the Sheriff's department. The firefighters were all smiles when we surprised them with Christmas treats and sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The Sheriff's department showed their appreciation by giving us a thank you "shout-out" on their Facebook page which you can view at [www.facebook.com/DurhamCountySheriffsOffice](https://www.facebook.com/DurhamCountySheriffsOffice).

### In the mailbag...

*Dear Quilting Ministry,*

*On behalf of the Staff of UNC's Newborn Critical Care Center, we want to thank you for your generous donations of quilts. Witnessing the look on parents' faces when they see the beautiful blankets in their baby's crib or isolette makes a tremendous difference. Truly, the joy your quilts spread is immeasurable.*

*We are so gracious for all of your hard work, and, of course, would gladly accept any more quilts you would be willing or able to offer. Thank you again for your generosity. Happy Holidays and New year!*

*Best regards,*

*UNC's Newborn Critical Care Center's  
Cheer Club*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dear Everyone at St. Paul's,*

*Thank you for your most generous contribution to The Lifeline Fund!*

*It will make a difference in the lives of our rostered leaders and congregations!*

*With much appreciation,*

*Caroline Mocho for The Lifeline Fund*

### Memorials Received

Our thanks to the following persons for memorials as designated.

† In memory of Joyce Harless by Virgil (Gus) Holshouser, Durham

† In memory of Kenneth Coulter by Marlene Coulter, Roxboro, NC

New sign-up forms are in the atrium under the TV monitor for 8:30 am and 11:00 am lectors, as well as for the 2017 altar flowers (double letter box, sign up on the top box, forms/envelopes on bottom box).

## Congratulations!

We are happy to announce that Rachael Giehl and her partner, Lavaurs Cuthbertson, welcomed their new 10 lb 2 oz daughter, Tatiana Jayde Cuthbertson on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. They currently live in Graham which makes Grandma Ann Giehl (GG) and Grandpa very happy.

## Prayers of Sympathy

Our sympathy to family and friends of Joyce Vohs (grandmother of Heather Slane) who died on Monday, November 28.

## Welcome to New Members

On Sunday, December 18, we welcomed our newest members: Jeremiah and Sarah DeGennaro and daughter Eleanor (Ellie) who is 3 years old.

Jeremiah and Sarah DeGennaro, Ellie

100 Stratford Lakes Dr, #204

Durham, NC 27713

919-636-1610 (Sarah's cell)

Sarah: [sparris81@gmail.com](mailto:sparris81@gmail.com)

Jeremiah: [Jeremiah.degennaro@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremiah.degennaro@gmail.com)

## New Council Members

Council members who were elected to serve a three-year term beginning January 2017 and their brief bios are:

### Linda Foreman

I have been a member of the faith community of St. Paul's for over 20 years and been grateful and blessed to serve in a number of roles, including Church Council, co-chair of two capital campaigns and the recent Call Committee. Currently I serve as a member of the Stewardship Committee and Women's Connection. In addition, I recently completed service on the Agape Kure Beach Ministries board and am active in Girl Scouting, locally, national and globally. I am a lifelong Lutheran and have tried to be active wherever I find myself – Epiphany Lutheran Church in Burtonsville, MD; Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in PA, and Epiphany Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA.



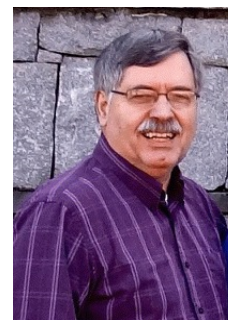
### Johnson Sheelam

I am Johnson Sheelam, born in a Christian family in India to late Mr. Abraham Sadhguna Rao, late Mrs. Devakrupamma. I believe in Jesus, am baptized, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church since 2009. I am a software engineer in RTP, married to Sona Neelima, have two kids: Chiku, 9 years old, and Naysa 5 years old. We live in Apex. And I love Jesus, would like to serve Him.



### Jim Shoaf

Jim Shoaf was born in Salisbury, NC and attended Rowan County Schools. During most of his youth, he attended a Lutheran church in East Spencer, where his mother's parents lived. He earned an AB degree in mathematics at Pfeiffer College (now University) and continued his education at NC State University, earning a master's degree and a Ph.D. degree in applied mathematics. Jim found employment as an instructor at NC Central University following graduate school, where he worked for 40 years full time. He is still working part-time at NCCU teaching two courses per semester. His participation at St. Paul's includes the choir, the Tuesday men's work group, and coordinator of the Adult Sunday School class. He enjoys music (piano and guitar) and has written lyrics for over 20 birthday or retirement songs. He has also helped with the children's Christmas pageant for the last 10 years or so. His wife of 26 years is Diana, and they are blessed with three wonderful young-adult children.



We thank the following persons who have completed their three years on council: Amanda Anderson, Morris Casper, Mike Mauriello, and Marcia Redman.

## Valentine's Day Big Band Bash and Dance

Put the date on your calendar now so you don't miss out on a great evening of entertainment – Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Trinity Hall. Come enjoy the sounds of the Durham Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band plus vocalists. All ages enjoy the music and the dance floor will be open.

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

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## Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle will celebrate Epiphany with a catered luncheon at church on Tuesday, January 17 at 10:00 am. Marilyn Hawley will do a program on her trip to Fiji with Habitat for Humanity. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

## Wednesday Night Suppers

We will begin the new year with our regular schedule of Wednesday night suppers on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month beginning at 6:00 pm. Come for great food and fellowship.



## Young In Spirit

Come join us on Wednesday, January 11 for a train ride to Greensboro and a visit to the Civil Rights museum. Take a look on-line at [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com) and [sitinmovement.org](http://sitinmovement.org) to peak your interest. More info forthcoming.

### Christmas Eve Worship - all Celebrate Communion

Saturday, December 24, 2016

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

### Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25, 2016

11:00 am (no 8:30 am service, no Sunday School)

A service of hymns, words, and Holy Communion

### Name of Jesus Worship

Sunday, January 1, 2017

11:00 am (no 8:30 am service, no Sunday School)

Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

### Epiphany Worship

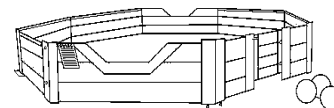
Sunday, January 8, 2017

8:30 am and 11:00 am

9:45 - 10:45 am Sunday School for all ages

## We're Going Ga-Ga!

Thank you for going ga-ga over our Ga-Ga Ball Pit project! Your support of our youth made the MS/HS



Youth Group's fundraising dinner on December 14<sup>th</sup> a success! With the money we raised, along with matching funds from a generous donor, we have enough to proceed with the expansion of the outdoor ministry area near the outdoor chapel and firepit, and the construction of a Ga-Ga ball pit. The youth are looking forward to playing this 'dodge-ball-like' game on their own turf and to practicing for competitions at Camp Agape and Lutheridge. Ga-Ga Ball is a fun, fast-paced and flexible game that's played in an octagonal play area with wooden walls. It doesn't need a set number of people and can be played individually or in teams by kids of all ages. We'll begin construction sometime in January. Watch for details in Parish Notes and *Cross Connections* on ways you can help with site preparation, building and landscaping.

## Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

Join us on Sunday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian church, 305 E. Main Street, Durham. Sermon will be delivered by Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Church USA. Featuring music by NC Central Student Ensemble.

## Grief Support

Growing thru Grief meets every Tuesday, gathering at 4 pm for coffee and cookies. The meeting runs from 4:30-6:00 pm, starting in Trinity Hall. Growing thru Grief is a coalition of area religious and civic organizations to offer support and education for those who mourn, centered on small group discussion. For further information on Growing thru Grief, see the website at [www.growingthrugrief.org](http://www.growingthrugrief.org) or email [growingthrugrief@gmail.com](mailto:growingthrugrief@gmail.com).



