

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 2017

Sunday, July 16 at 12:30 pm

Lunch and Learn: Does Reading the Label Really Help?

A Workshop on Diversity

Fear, media, peer pressure, and poor role models have helped to create a climate where name-calling, one-up-man's-ship, and a "what's-in-it-for-me?" mentality has flourished and thrived. The workshop shows us alternatives to destructive communication, and helps open the door to reconciliation. This workshop has helped Synods, church groups, youth groups, educators, women's groups, school systems, federal government employees, and many others learn that we really can "all just get along." The workshop stresses "Personal Responsibility" and small steps as the beginning of what can be a very cathartic process. As we examine how "Ism's" (racism, sexism, ageism...) Cause us to live in a fractured world, the workshop helps us see more clearly how we can make a difference... ONE PERSON AT A TIME...starting with ourselves. Very often, we label others and are labeled ourselves, and this labeling only helps to separate us and highlight our need for a common bond. If the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001 taught us anything, it is that when we seek to exclude and distrust each other, and allow walls to be built between us, it can have disastrous effects. This workshop attempts to teach us how to move beyond the barriers that separate us, and to begin to see and experience each other, without labels and stereotypes and preconceived notions.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.

MATTHEW 22:39

Rev. Tim Taylor, Pastor of The Church of the Abiding Savior, Durham, along with his wife, Rev. Sharon Taylor presented this transformational workshop at last year's NC Synod Assembly. Pastor Tim will lead this session here at St. Paul's and will also preach at both worship services on July 16. Please plan on attending!

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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Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am sitting at my desk on June 26th, just two days after the celebration of my 10th anniversary of ordination. I am still overwhelmed by the joy and outpouring of love that came my way on Saturday. This congregation knows how to throw a party. I hear through the grapevine that Vicar Sue and Susan Esposito had a lot to do with the preparation and planning, so a special thanks to them.

The day was filled with special remembrances, current joys and a little slow roasting. I don't know if I will ever get my closet back in order. But, you should know they didn't find some of the louder clothes to bring with them. So, I suppose I am grateful for that.

I was so pleased with the turn out on a Saturday and I appreciated everyone who helped with the day.

Please accept my most appreciative thanks for your generosity. Kathy and I are planning our get away early next year and your gift will make the trip that much more special.

I look forward to many more years of ministry at St. Paul's and rejoice in our life together.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday when I walked through the doors of St. Paul's for the first time. There were so many new names and faces. There was so much to learn. Now almost a whole year has gone by in what seems like a blink of an eye. And yet, as I look back on this past year, I am flooded with so many cherished memories of Sunday morning worship services, Spirit flags, children's sermons and puppet Jesus; Wednesday evening Advent services, Christmas Eve and Holy Week; a lock-in, home visits, and pre-school Chapel time; Ga-Ga ball pit construction and a museum field trip; Wednesday community suppers and Mix It Up Meals; Youth Sunday and acolyte training; and the list goes on. Time does fly when you're having fun.

And it has been an amazing year for me because of all the love and support you all here at St. Paul's have given me and I cannot possibly thank you enough. You have opened your lives and your hearts to me and allowed me to participate and gain experience in every aspect of ministry. I hope you realize how very important the role you play as a teaching congregation is for the future of the church and how you have blessed me and all the interns before me and how you will bless the next vicar, Adam, starting in

August. Through all the opportunities you have given me, I have learned so much and have been able to develop my pastoral identity and to discover gifts for ministry I didn't even know I had. And all those names and faces, they belong to folks I now consider cherished friends.

Unlike most seminarians, I have already finished my studies in seminary and my internship here at St. Paul's completes my training. So instead of going back to school for another year, in August, I will be going before the Synod Candidacy Committee for approval, and then if all goes well, I will be part of the September assignment process where I will be assigned to one of the regions in the country, and after that, I'll be awaiting a call from a congregation. I'm excited and nervous to see where the Holy Spirit is going to send me next. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as we wait on these decisions and face the unknown. What I do know, however, is that my time here at St. Paul's has prepared me well for whatever lies ahead and that I will take St. Paul's with me in my heart wherever I go. Thank you for everything. I love you all.

Vicar Sue Holland

New Vicar Reminders

We will have information about our new vicar, Adam Schultz, in next month's newsletter, but Adam's internship will be slightly different from our past internships. Adam will be living next door.

I bring this up because from early August until Adam leaves at the end of July next year, the Damascus House will be his residence. I know that as a single man he won't need the whole house, but it is his residence and he will need his privacy and a place of sanctuary.

It may be tempting when you forget your church key to knock on his door at odd hours of the day or night and ask him to open the church. Please do not. It may be that needed repairs will be required during his stay, please schedule an appointment so the work can be done and do not just drop in. I know horror stories of well-meaning folk dropping in at 5 am at the church parsonage unannounced to do work, that's just not appropriate.

Adam will work long hours, will be available as all of our Vicars have been, but we will need to work hard not to infringe on his privacy at the Damascus House.

As usual, the transition of Vicar Rules apply:

- ▶ Do wear nametags
- ▶ Do introduce yourself by name for at least the first

month.

- ▶ Do not say Vicar Sue did “it” this way.
- ▶ Do not compare Vicar Adam to other Vicars (at least out loud).
- ▶ Do welcome him and invite him to social functions or a meal.
- ▶ Do help him get to know us and our facilities.
- ▶ Do help him get to know Durham.
- ▶ Do not be afraid to love him and help him love you.

We will be saying goodbye to Vicar Sue on July 30th between services, so plan to attend and help us celebrate a year well spent and a life of ministry just beginning.

We are a teaching congregation and one that does our job well.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

It was a Grand Party



...at the celebration of Pastor Anderson's 10th Anniversary of Ordination on June 24. Over 100 parishioners, colleagues, and friends enjoyed a delicious BBQ and fried chicken lunch provided by Bullock's, followed by cake and an exhaustive “Roast” in Pastor's honor.

Emcee Amanda

Anderson introduced presenters and kept the varied program running smoothly. Tom Kraska, Curtis Chi, and Alan Barber provided dinner music and led the singing of “You Have come Down to the Lakeshore.” Rev. Dr. Tom Ridenhour, Scott's seminary professor and ordination preacher, offered reflections on the antic, interesting “older” student at Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary. Other presentations included an original song by Jim Shoaf, Beatitudes by Dick Clendaniel, and Deborah's Steed's suggestions for new chancel wear, derived from Pastor's wardrobe. Many good-natured volunteers donned some of Pastor's more outrageous suits, ties, shirts, socks and shoes. Tracey Dissel read a poem written by Chris Stoen, Vicar Sue provided thoughts on her year at St. Paul's, and the choir sang the closing Benediction.

Special thanks to Susan Esposito and Vicar Sue Holland for planning and overseeing the entire afternoon, as well as the kitchen committee and all

others who made this festive event so much fun!

Guide and Seek: Pairing Newcomers and Long-timers



Come, Grow with Us!

Council is launching a new “Guide & Seek” program to welcome and engage new congregation members. We invite both newcomers and “old timers” to sign up with Tracey Dissel or John Foreman.

If you've been a long-time member of St. Paul's, would you be a Guide? Would you like to:

- make new friends, and enjoy fellowship with newcomers?
- Pass long some of the “institutional memory” of our congregation?
- Learn new ways of seeing our congregational life, as you explore our various ministries with your newcomer partner?

If you think you would like to explore becoming a Guide, please speak with one of the Guide Leaders: Tracey Dissel or John Foreman. They'll have a small picture of a tree on their name tag.

If you are a relatively **new member** of St. Paul's:

- ▶ Have you wondered about how to discern where your talents and interests might fit in with some of the ministries of this congregation?
- ▶ Perhaps you or someone in your family is a little bit shy, and might benefit from a companion as you or they get acquainted with your new church home?
- ▶ Have you been away from St. Paul's for a time, and find that many things have changed since you were last actively involved with the congregation?

The Guide & Seek program at St. Paul's is designed to match up **each member** of a new family with a Guide of similar age and status for a few months of companionship. In case of teenagers, we hope to assign each child their own youth Guide.

How does this program work?

For NEWCOMERS:

If you think you would like to explore having a Guide, please speak with one of the Guide Leaders: they'll have a small image of a tree on their name tag. After finding out about some of your interests, the Leader will match you with a Guide, who will then meet with you for a few weeks and be your companion as you learn about St. Paul's. Your Guide will be encouraged to pray with and for you as you seek out

ways that you can engage with and be supported by the family of St. Paul's.

Toward the conclusion of your partnership, you and your Guide will be encouraged to collaborate on a brief biography of yourself, to be included in an issue of *Cross Connections* – as another way of introducing you to the whole congregation.

For GUIDES:

A Guide Leader will meet with you at a mutually convenient time. The Leader will ask you to complete a short questionnaire, which along with your Directory photo, will be your Guide Profile. The Leader will then match you with a newcomer.

Your first meeting with your newcomer partner should take place at St. Paul's, but subsequent meetings can be in any location that's comfortable and convenient for you both. We suggest that you attend the same worship service as your newcomer partner during the Guide & Seek period. You and your partner are free to arrange your schedule, but normally you would get together once or twice a month for about three or four months. As you get to know your partner, you'll be encouraged to help make them aware of the many activities of our congregation. In addition to meeting together at worship, you might attend a Wednesday Night supper and introduce your partner around. Your role is that of a companion as your newcomer partner explores ways to engage with and be supported by the family of St. Paul's.

We hope that Guide & Seek will be a lively, welcoming program of new connections and growth for everyone.

RACE Exhibit in Raleigh

by Deborah Steed

Several Sundays ago, a group of us visited the Museum of Natural Sciences' RACE interactive exhibit as part of St. Paul's Continuing Conversations series. I learned so much from it, the most shocking – and important – of which was that the earth's people are biologically 99% alike and only 1% different! All of us have evolved in the last 100,000 years from the same small number of tribes that migrated out of Africa and colonized the world.

Thus there is but one race – the human race! Race is merely a cultural construct, not a biological one.

Yet the exhibits and videos we saw demonstrated how human beings have used the 1% of differences to categorize, rank, and either deny or grant privileges to one another.

From a Christian perspective, we really have

missed out on the message of our created world: God really has created us as equals and to build bridges across the narrow rivulets of superficial distinctions. What a message for us as we celebrate the ideal, if not the reality, of America's founding.

I wholeheartedly invite you, from middle schoolers through senior citizens, to visit the RACE exhibit at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, which is open through October 22nd. You will learn just how closely God has bound us together in the human family!

Memorials Received

We have received memorials from the following people in memory of those designated.

In memory of Jerry Koontz, by:

- + Audrey Busch, Durham
- + Timothy and Sharon Clapp, New Hill
- + James and Judythe Dingfelder, Chapel Hill
- + Diane and Gary Archer, Hillsborough
- + Larry and Carole Ostrowski, Hurdle Mills
- + S. Jones, Pittsboro

In memory of Dotte Williams, by:

- + Karl and Ottilie Freundt, Durham

Planned Giving

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

Part 1: Wills

Part 2: Life Insurance

Part 3: IRAs

Part 4: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part 5: Charitable Trusts

This month we feature IRAs

IRAs

Individual Retirement Accounts are often the best gift you can leave to the church through your estate. The reason is that traditional IRAs have tax consequences for your children or other individuals who inherit them. They can take the IRA either as a lump sum or paid out over years, but there are taxes due.

The church gets to avoid the taxes due and therefore can place the entire amount of the IRA into use for ministry.

Giving through an IRA is very simple too. You don't need an attorney. Simply call your IRA

administrator and tell them what you want to do. They will get you the form right away.

Additionally, Congress has made permanent legislation where you can give directly from your IRA to a charity if you are 70.5 or older. Your gift counts towards your required minimum distribution for the year and it does not count as income to you (there is no gift tax credit though).

For help with gifting an IRA, contact a member of the Council or the Stewardship Committee. You may also return the coupon below in the offering plate.

THANK YOU!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church would like to thank individuals and families who have notified the congregation that the ministry of this church has been included in their estate plans. Gifts through a person's estate are a great lasting testimony to the importance that the church and service to God has held in their lives.

St. Paul's respects requests for anonymity, but since gift amounts are not being made public, we are hopeful that publishing a list of names will be seen as a statement of faith and will encourage others. Please use the reply form below to let the church know that you have included St. Paul's in your estate plans.

Alternatively, you may use this form to let us know if you are interested in learning more.

----- cut or tear here -----

REPLY

___I/we have included St. Paul's Lutheran Church in estate plans. It would be OK to list my/our name(s) in articles about Planned Giving.

___I/we are interested in including St. Paul's Lutheran Church in our state plans. Please contact us.

Name_____

Phone_____ email_____

THANK YOU!

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Dorothy Mae "Dotte" Williams, who died Tuesday, June 13. Her funeral was held on Monday, June 19 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's with interment in the Columbarium. Memorials can be made to St. Paul's.

Youth Ministry News



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!

Youth who are in 8th - 12th 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 fundraising opportunities. Go to <http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering> for more details.

Summer Camp Opportunities at Camp Agape!

If you haven't booked a summer camp experience for your child yet, Camp Agape still has openings in several of their programs. Camp Agape offers a variety of Christ-centered residential camp experiences for youth and families. Brochures are available on the Youth Ministry bulletin board outside of Whitesell Hall and more information can also be found on-line at www.agapekurebeach.org.

For St. Paul's Families with boys in the 3rd - 6th grade!

Several St. Paul's families have already registered their 3rd - 6th graders to attend the Prime! Camp program at Camp Agape during the week of July 23-28. There are still openings in the July 23-29 Prime! Camp for boys only. Contact Amanda Stoen for more information or go to www.agapekurebeach.org to register your child.

Calling all Youth – Every Sunday!

There is a place for you on the Worship Team Every Sunday.

You don't have to wait for Youth Sunday to be part of the Worship team. You are needed every Sunday to help lead worship as Junior Crucifers, Acolytes, Torch Bearers, Bible Bearers, Crucifers, and Lectors. This is a wonderful way for you to contribute to the life of the church and take an active role in worship. If you would like to be part of the worship team, contact Vicar Sue (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org). We'll set up a time before the service to go over everything you need to know so you'll be ready.

It's a Wrap...

Our 2017 Vacation Bible School was a hit! We spent 5 days from 9 am - 12 noon learning that God made you, God is for you, that God is always with you, that God will always love you, and that God made you for a reason!

There were 43 children, 28 adults, and 4 teens who spent each day traveling from the Sound Wave Sing and Play opening, to Bible Discovery, Kid-Vid Cinema, Imagination Station, Cool Crafts, Recreation & Snacks and closing with Funshop Finale. An offering collection of \$98 will go to ELCA World Hunger. A list of the volunteers is posted on the bulletin board in the atrium – please thank them. Our gratitude to everyone who spent their time and talents in helping our young generation learn about God and the life he wants us to live and share with others. Thank you!



Rise Against Hunger

by Katherine Trexler

My husband and I along with our three grandkids (12, 8 and 5 years old), were very excited about participating in this event. That is,

until the reality hit that we had to get going early for the sixth day in a row – just after Vacation Bible School. So with many moans and groans, we packed into the car and headed to St. Titus. None of us really knew what to expect, but we were heartened to see a packed parking lot with folks heading towards the door, many from St. Paul's.

The room was buzzing with anticipation. Then we were all called down for prayer, assignments, and instructions. We donned hairnets and gloves and assumed our tasks: to weigh the packaged meal bags for consistency, then heat seal them. It took some time to find a rhythm and get up to speed with the three NCCU students at our station. Then we heard it – the singing and dancing and all the lively chatter.

We scratched our heads to find a suitable job for the youngest one. Then we found it – “Runner”! He collected sealed bags and put them into large bins to ready for shipment. His eyes lit up the next day as he described his job to his mother. “I was really busy; I ran all over the place. I got tired too! I helped collect 10,000 meals for hungry people!”

Then someone struck the gong. Each strike represented 1000 meals. In less than 90 minutes, the job was done! We were energized; we had cookies and met even more new folks.

Our grandkids live in the Blue Ridge Mountains with no chance to see this type of event: God's children, black and white, praying and working in harmony, eager to help feed the starving.



Welcome our Newest Members

On Sunday, June 25, we welcomed our newest members?

Paul and Debbie Goldenberg

209 Brook Chase Lane
Durham, NC 27705

paul@goldennotes.com

Previous Church Affiliation: Grace
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Durham

Phil and Sally Hart

2812 Montcastle
Durham, NC 27705

Phil: 817-692-9487 psbhart@gmail.com

Sally: psbhart@gmail.com

Previous Church Affiliation: Abiding Grace
Lutheran Church, Southlake, TX

Bonnie Jean Brown Marple

3632 Sunningdale Way
Durham, NC 27707

bmarple@nc.rr.com

Previous Church Affiliation: Christ the King
Moravian Church, Durham, NC

St. Paul's "Seeks New Stephen Ministers"

Our congregation is noted for its many caring ministries, and Stephen Ministry is one of those. Stephen Ministers provide 1:1 support to other people who are going through life changes. They offer "Christ caring for people through people."

St. Paul's has a wonderful group of Stephen Ministers, and some have even served two people concurrently so we need to recruit additional members.

For those who are interested in this opportunity, Stephen Ministry provides 50 hours of training, an ongoing support group, in depth training manuals and the counsel of trained Stephen Leaders: Judy Kraska, Audrey Busch, and Nan Treul.

If you have considered this ministry in prior years but felt the timing was not right, please prayerfully consider training for the Stephen Ministry Team in the coming year. God has gifted and called all of his people to ministry, and Stephen Ministry may be the right fit for you now.

As one Stephen Minister said, "Stephen training has taught me that we can be equipped to be with each other, no matter what the situation. In all our fallibility, we can try to live in witness to God's love."

"I've been a member of St. Paul's for almost 30 years; I've lived through a lot of tough times. At my stage of life experience, Stephen Ministry is teaching me that we are always growing and learning, and that our connections to each other make us all stronger and wiser."

Stay tuned for an information session in the fall with an anticipated start date for training in January 2018. For more information, please contact any of the leaders above or Pastor Scott.



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Community Café Help is Needed!



St. Paul's next day to work at the Community Café is **Saturday, July 15**. Volunteers are needed to work from 11 am to 1:30 pm. **NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY**. No cooking or clean up is involved – only food

prep and serving. Please contact Nancy Dewhirst for any questions or to sign up (nancydewhirst@yahoo.com).

Farewell Reception for Vicar Sue

Every year we welcome into our midst a stranger called The New Vicar. Over the next twelve months, we get to know and love this pastor-in-training. At the end of his or her tenure, we say goodbye, sad to lose the Vicar, but rejoicing that he or she is one step closer to ordained ministry in the Body of Christ.

Vicar Sue has richly shared her gifts for ministry at St. Paul's in every area of ministry. Between Services on Sunday, July 30th, we will hold a reception in her honor. You are invited to bring a card with your reflections on her work here. If you would like to donate toward a gift of appreciation, please mark on your check or envelope, "Vicar gift."



Looking Ahead to our Silent Auction

Fall is just around the corner and we need to start thinking about donations for the silent auction. A weekend in a house at the beach or cabin in the mountains would be great, or a gift certificate to a restaurant in the area. Profits from the auction will benefit the Damascus House. If you have any questions, contact Bess Line at 210-383-7298.

Next Wednesday Night Supper is July 19 at 6:00 pm in Trinity Hall.

Military are in our Prayers

We will be installing a new bulletin board in the hallway (it is actually there, but on top of the filing cabinets until they get moved to their new location). Those who have family/friends in the military are invited to use the cards, available in the office, to list their information, maybe provide a photograph or an address if their military person would like to be contacted. Contact a staff member if you have questions.

Urban Ministry of Durham's Food Pantry

End Hunger Durham has purchased shopping carts, and Carolina Preserve purchased new rolling shelves to hold the non-perishable foods. This means that instead of being handed bags of groceries selected by volunteers, clients will be able to shop with a volunteer "buddy" to choose foods for their household, such as the varieties and brands they want.

You can help UMD's new project by:

- Donating reusable grocery bags, new or gently used.
- Donating healthier foods such as whole wheat pasta and crackers, low and no-sodium non-perishable foods, cereals without added sugar (oatmeal included), organic foods, sugar free foods, tortilla chips, salsa, coffee, teas, brown rice, spices, herbs, cornmeal, whole wheat flour, unrefined sugar, nuts, raisins and other dried fruit, muffin and pancake mixes (adding just water).
- Donating traditional most needed foods: canned meat (especially chicken), pasta (dry and canned), pasta sauce, mac & cheese, rice, and shelf-stable milk.

Items can be brought to the baskets at the church's main doors at any time.