

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*August 2020*



## **Saying Farewell and Godspeed**

The COVID-19 times we are presently living in, made us bid our farewells to Vicar Anna Carter from a distance, just as we did for Pastor Ali. Anna's internship committee took turns from the podium on her last worship, before Pastor Scott bid our Godspeed to her. We wish Anna all the best as she now is in the call process and awaiting location. Visit our



vimeo site (<https://vimeo.com/441811049>) to view well-wishes from friends and congregation members. Her farewell parade took place on Thursday, July 30 as a drive-thru at the church. You can view that video at this site (<https://vimeo.com/444102617>).



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Judy Goans, Vicar

Jackie Fryt, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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)

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

[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

[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

## From the Pastor...

Transition. It is that time of the year when we make a significant transition. Vicar Anna will have left us by the time you are reading this newsletter. She was a blessing to us during this past academic year and you were a blessing to her. But, she is on to await a call to be a Word and Sacrament minister in the ELCA. This is a gift to the whole church that you make possible.

Thank you.

Now, on to our new vicar. Vicar Judy will be with us beginning Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will support her with a pounding on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Then we will remember the new Vicar rules. We introduce ourselves by name for the first few meetings with the Vicar. I know that is hard when those meetings may be over zoom or through a car window. We normally say, wear your nametag. Again, until we worship together that will be impossible. But mostly please, remember each Vicar is different, has different learning goals and different needs. The first few weeks of the Vicar's time with us is spent with me discerning the duties the Vicar will begin with during this first quarter. Vicar Judy will not be doing the same things Vicar Anna did and so I will be seeking help with the duties that were cared for by Vicar Anna. Also, this year is unique in that Vicar Judy is married. We have not had a married Vicar since Joseph O 'Donnell. So remember to invite her husband, Ron, to participate in the life of the congregation.

Mostly, I would like us all to remember:

In the broadest sense, a **vicar** (from the Latin vicarius), is anyone acting as a substitute or agent for a superior (compare "vicarious"). In this sense, the title is comparable to lieutenant. In the case of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a vicar is a third or fourth year seminarian. Typically, the third year of the four-year seminary experience is set aside as a time of internship. However, some of our Vicars have served after seminary graduation. Vicars perform all of the duties of a pastor except for presiding at the sacraments (except under special circumstances with permission of the bishop) and performing Marriages. Vicars are available for counseling, visitation, teaching, worship, leadership, preaching and they may work with the youth and children, and on and on. Our job is to be teachers and mentors for the Vicars. We are called in love, to show them what it means to be the Body of Christ in this place. That doesn't mean

that we are all bosses or all supervisors. The pastor supervises the Vicar and the Vicar has an internship committee that supports and helps to guide their work. We are called to live the good news and help to continue their formation into a pastor of the church.

Pastor Scott

## Singing a New Song: Introducing Judy Winegar Goans

Dear friends at St. Paul's,

I am looking forward to serving as your new vicar. I know all of us will miss Vicar Anna, who will be a hard act to follow and will become a great pastor for some lucky congregation.

I am married to Ron Goans. We have two adult sons, Robert and Ron Jr., Ron Jr.'s wife Jessica Torrance, plus four "granddawgs." Ron is an occupational medicine physician who also has a PhD in physics, which is where we met. (Physics has been very good to me. It got me my husband and my first two jobs!) After receiving my degree in physics, I went to law school and worked for the Department of Energy and the Patent and Trademark Office and then spent some time in private practice. However, I have spent most of my career in international development, helping countries strengthen various aspects of their intellectual property systems.

Ron and I currently live in his home town of Clinton, TN, and are looking forward to living in the Durham area. Our home church is Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where we have both been active. Grace has the twin distinctions of being a church built as a result of the Manhattan Project and also of having had as one of its pastors, former Presiding Bishop James Crumley, who was instrumental in the merger that formed the ELCA.

I received my master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, in 2017 and am working on a Master of Sacred Theology from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. My thesis is entitled, "Two Interpretations of the Book of Revelation" and compares the approach of the Left Behind series of novels with the approach of more mainline churches like Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Methodists.

I am a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, but have lived in five states and one foreign country (Egypt),



where I helped lead a small church and first experienced a call to ordained ministry. I am looking forward to internship as an opportunity to gain experience, meet new people, and “sing to the Lord a new song.”

## A Look at our Library

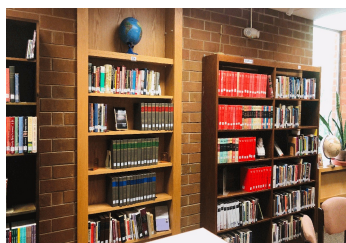
Pastor Scott wrote this devotion on July 30 which is being copied here along with some photos of our wonderful Fowler Memorial Library.



Biography and Commentaries

*We are most fortunate at St. Paul’s to have such a wonderful parish library. Thanks to the early efforts of Roberta Lloyd and with the help of the Duke Divinity School librarian Katie Benjamin and Duke Lutheran and St. Paul’s member Christina*

*Nesslage, we have one of the most outstanding parish libraries in the ELCA.*



Church History and Luther’s Works

*It is fitting that our central resource for faith, the Bible is a small library. The Bible is sixty-six books, not one book as it appears at first glance. It is a series of books bound together between two covers. If we know what it means,*

*the word Bible tells us that this book is really a library of smaller books. The word Bible comes from a Greek word, ‘biblia’ which is plural and means “little books” or “booklets.” These books recount the story*

*of God’s covenant with people whom we claim as our faith ancestors. It is a multi-volume story of God’s history of salvation.*



Children’s Section

*Our library is filled with commentaries, history, language, fiction and memoirs. We were very fortunate to have the*

*resources to hire Christina to complete the reorganization and refurbishment of the library this summer. We have added bookshelves, new commentaries, the expanded collection of Luther’s*

*Works, and completed the current collection of our member, Rev. Dr. Richard Lischer’s books.*

*I encourage you to stop by and utilize this resource.*

## Duke Lutherans: Still Called to Life Together

“Duke Lutherans is a welcoming community of Lutherans and friends at Duke University, called to boldly share God’s gift of life together on campus, in our local congregations, and through the wider Durham community.” (Dukelutherans.org)



I recently attended Duke Chapel’s Religious Life back-to-school retreat – virtually, of course. Led by the Director of Religious Life, Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon, and including words of wisdom and encouragement from the Dean of the Chapel, Rev. Dr. Luke Powery, the retreat gathered together a diverse group of campus pastors and leaders, all of whom are doing their best to prepare for the school year ahead.

Many, many questions were shared:

- ▶ How will we best care for and serve our students when it’s still not safe to meet in groups?
- ▶ Will campus pastors be allowed to meet one-on-one with students to provide pastoral care?
- ▶ How can we tend to our students’ emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being in a time full of significant challenges and uncertainties?
- ▶ Will students suffering from “Zoom fatigue” even want to participate in online worship, Bible study, and fellowship?
- ▶ What resources will be available for our students when they feel anxious, fearful, or overwhelmed, as they no doubt will at times?

I suppose it wasn’t a surprise that, at least for the time being, there are still more questions than answers. Dr. Powery reminded us that circumstances – and Duke’s protective measures in response to the fluctuating pandemic – continue to be fluid. Although classes will begin in less than a month (August 17 to be precise), we will continue to receive new information and guidelines until then and probably throughout the fall and into 2021.

So much is yet unknown.

But, this much we know is true: Duke Lutherans is still called to life together. These were the words of our beloved Deacon William Dahl as members of the

Duke Lutherans committee shared our concerns and hopes for our community of faith. We are *still* called to share God's gift of life and unconditional, boundless love with one another, our neighbors, and the world. The *means* through which we do this have indeed changed; the end – our very purpose – has not. We are God's children and we are *still* called to embody Christ's grace and healing.

Perhaps now more than ever, dear friends, our students need us. They need our support and love. To this end I ask you to pray for them: for nervous incoming freshmen, for isolated juniors and seniors who will not live on campus this fall, for graduate and professional students endeavoring to stay on top of their research, and, last but not least, their families. Pray for all of these, for "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Finally, please reach out to me or one of our Duke Lutheran Committee members if you feel called to help us in any way. We are always open to new and creative ideas. Our partnership in ministry with St. Paul's and Grace Lutheran makes all the difference for us, and we thank our God of grace for you.

Peace,

Pastor Amanda ([amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu))

## Council Corner

by Tina Bessias, President

There is so much to report to you this month! Let's start with thanks:

- To the 50 members of the congregation who completed the survey in July. It is extremely helpful to know how such a significant portion of the congregation views the risks and opportunities of this moment and the congregational activities taking place over Zoom and in person. You can see the results here: [shorturl.at/elstO](http://shorturl.at/elstO).
- To the COVID-19 Task Force that is guiding our decisions about in-person activities. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter about its work.
- To the whole congregation for continued donations that are keeping us on par or slightly ahead of our budget in the first six months of 2020.

The baptism of Claire Cooney's daughter Tessa inspired our first attempt at live-streaming *and* recording a "Sunday" service on Thursday, July 23. We had a technically ambitious plan that included projecting the "cloud" of Zoom witnesses in the sanctuary for the family and worship leaders to see. Since we have not, as a congregation, chosen to invest

in video production equipment, it was done with just a couple of I pads. Many of us found it exciting to see a live stream even if it was less polished than the weekly recordings on Vimeo.

Those recordings, edited since March by Vicar Anna, are now being produced by a group of members who answered the call to learn her system. Jonathan Maine is the first to step up, and others are practicing for their turns. Different members of this new team have different computers and software, so the look of the services may vary slightly from week to week. But we are grateful to have a group to carry on this important work.

There have been some unexpected expenses for our physical plant in recent weeks. The hot water heaters in Trinity Kitchen have to be replaced, and some of the plumbing for it has to be redone. In the sanctuary, one of the vertical stained glass windows along the east side has buckled and will have to be repointed. We are receiving bids on both of these projects; both will be expensive.

On the other hand, our application for a loan under the Paycheck Protection Plan was approved and funds received from the federal government. The majority of the funds are allocated to the Preschool and Duke Lutherans, but \$31,000 was received by the congregation. The Finance Committee and the Congregation Council are considering how to handle it.

Finally, Wildflower Cottage is forging ahead with its plans to purchase Damascus House by the end of the year. Having to reconfigure their entire program has slowed things down a bit, as has the closing of city offices. They recently delivered the third installment of earnest money, however, and appear to be on track to fulfill the contract signed in December.

I give thanks for all the many ways we are keeping the faith at St. Paul's!

## Stephen Ministry Now and in the Future

by Nan Treul

St. Paul's Stephen Ministry has been well and active, and making some necessary adjustments during the COVID-19 crisis. The emotional and spiritual care our Stephen Ministers provide has been especially valuable due to the heightened stress and anxiety many people are experiencing as a result of the pandemic. Because the health and safety of both the Stephen Minister and care receiver are of the highest priority, we, too, are adhering to physical distancing guidelines.

Our active Stephen Ministers continue to meet with their care receivers using “virtual” means rather than meeting face-to-face. Stephen Ministers have come up with great ways to connect with their care receivers to show they care. For our monthly Peer Support meetings, we are using Zoom technology. We plan to continue meeting in these ways until we can safely gather again.

As we focus on the future, we plan to grow St. Paul’s Stephen Ministry. We are delighted that Bonnie Cooper and Joan Pepper have almost completed their Stephen Minister training. We expect to complete it in the next two months; in the meantime we will welcome their attendance at our monthly Zoom meetings.

Please remember that our Stephen Ministers are always ready to reach out to members of St. Paul’s, especially at these unique times that we have been experiencing lately. For more information, please contact Kim Hoke or Nan Treul.

## Welcomed by Holy Baptism



On Thursday, July 23, 2020 we did a Zoom Worship service (and filming the service for July 26, 2020, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost), which also was put on our vimeo

site. We baptized Tessa Merritt Cooney, child of Claire R. and Haynes A. Cooney. Tessa was born on September 10, 2019. Sponsors are George and Megan Robinette (Tessa’s uncle and aunt).

## In the mailbag...

*St. Paul’s outpouring of Christian love has touched our hearts once again. As you may know, Tony has been having continuous, major health difficulties and much pain with his very, rare, skin disorder (1 in 100,000) since the beginning of the year. However, it’s because of the Grace of God and the love and prayers from you all that we continue to keep putting one step in front of another!*

*We can’t thank you enough for all the cards, emails and texts we have received from so many of you these last six months. Furthermore, the number of cards I received for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday was absolutely overwhelming and made me feel VERY special in light of the quarantine and the fact that we had to*

*“celebrate” on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Tony’s “VIP” bedroom at Duke!*

*Furthermore, our fellow Stephen Ministers surprised us a few weeks later with a special basket of goodies to brighten our day! They even remembered to gift our Shih Tzu, Tootsie, which of course warmed our hearts! Thank you all!*

*We have a very special congregation and we thank God we are part of it. Please keep praying that the insurance company and/or the FDA will SOON approve our urgent pleas for certain medicines and that Tony is accepted as a candidate on the pharmaceuticals’ Patient Assistance Programs. Most importantly, please pray that somehow we can control his often severe pain.*

*Hugs and thanks,*

*Penni*

*Love and God Bless You All, Tony, Penni & Tootsie*

## Vicar Anna’s Contact Information

email: [annaelisabethcarter@gmail.com](mailto:annaelisabethcarter@gmail.com)

address: 5482 Heritage Oaks Lane  
Winston Salem, NC 27106

## Memorials

*We have received the following memorials:*

In memory of Jan Hooft by Christian Hooft, Pittsboro

In memory of Ted Watson by:

Mary Sturgeon, Carrboro

Gus Holshouser, Durham

Larry and Phyllis Jenkins, Durham

In memory of Alice Richmond by:

Gus Holshouser, Durham

Larry and Phyllis Jenkins, Durham

Marlene Coulter, Roxboro

In memory of Jim and Alice Richmond by Tim and

Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill

In memory of Sonja Bock by:

Richard Havill and Rachel Harter, Chapel Hill

Richard Clendaniel, Durham

Larry and Phyllis Jenkins, Durham

Karl and Otilie Freundt, Durham

Dennis and Dixie Harrison, Durham

Bahama Ruritan Club, Inc., Bahama NC

Larry and Ann Grovenstein, Durham

In memory of Ruth Boynton by Arloa Bittikofer,  
Durham

In memory of her parents, by Mary Sturgeon

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

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## Christ in Our Home - now available on Kindle

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly Christian devotional that brings you a daily message of God's amazing grace. Reflections and prayers are based on scripture readings from Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings. Each day offers a Bible verse, a personal commentary or meditation, a suggested prayer concern, and a unique prayer. Enjoyed by readers for more than 60 years, Christ in Our Home is now available electronically. You can download to your Kindle for \$2.99 a quarter through Amazon.

## Question from Robin Winfree

I have taken over one of the community gardens at Croasdaile. I have to walk a distance carrying all my garden tools. If anyone has a no longer needed pull behind basket/crate on wheels I would love to have it. Thanks to anyone who can help me. Robin Winfree 919-309-6149.

## Zoom Sunday School Discussion on NC Prisoner Legal Services

CCG invites you to join us on August 30<sup>th</sup> for a Zoom Sunday School hour with Ben Finholt, of NC Prisoner Legal Services. NCPLS advocates for the rights of those incarcerated in North Carolina state prisons.

Mr. Finholt has worked with NCPLS since 2012; this spring and summer, during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been especially challenging. He'll describe some of the services that Prisoner Legal Services provides to NC residents. He'll guide us in examining the ways that our state's justice system affects minority and marginalized citizens.

NCPLS attorneys evaluate claims about an individual's conviction or sentence, and work to correct any errors, either informally or through litigation. NCPLS civil attorneys also evaluate

potential civil rights claims, such as use of force by prison staff, dangerous prison conditions; inadequate medical care; religious freedom; and free speech issues. When NCPLS cannot litigate a case, they still provide legal advice and self-help packets on post-conviction and civil issues.

As our congregation works to learn about systemic racism, and the fundamental inequities of our society, Ben Finholt's remarks will give us important insights about the NC justice system, and ways that we might support actions to increase fairness and equity in our communities.

The Zoom link will be sent out in Parish Emails the week before August 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope you'll be able to join us!

## Moving Forward Through and Beyond COVID-19

by Tina Bessias

In May, the Congregation Council formed a COVID-19 Task Force to develop recommendations about physical gatherings. Members are Joan Albright, Pastor Anderson, Tina Bessias, Linda Foreman (chair), Dean Redman, and Janet Seiz. That task force presented the Council with a document called "Moving Forward Through and Beyond COVID-19," and the Council adopted it. (*Document inside.*) It identifies sources of information, goals, and intentions along with protocols for various activities in and around the building. Please consult it when you are considering an in-person visit.

It's important that we, as congregation members, take responsibility for following the protocols. If you have concerns about any of them, please communicate with Linda Foreman (Task Force Chair) or Tina Bessias (Congregation Council President). Our staff should not be put in a position of policing the protocols.

As the document states, we are a resilient community of faith. As difficult as this period of physical separation is, we know it is temporary, and we trust in the Lord to guide us.