

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*January 2018*

## **Epiphany – Saturday, January 6, 2018**

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.

We will begin the service at 6 PM around the fire pit where we will burn branches from our Christmas tree as we sing Christmas carols. From there, we will process into the sanctuary, carrying 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  
Adam Schultz, Vicar  
Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Lutheran Campus Pastor  
Ali Tranvik, Vicar, Duke Lutherans  
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus

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## From the Pastor...

*“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)*

January 6 marks the end of one season on the Christian calendar – Christmastide – and the beginning of a new one – Epiphany. With origins in the Eastern church stretching back centuries, Epiphany celebrates a variety of events, including the baptism of Jesus, the miracle at Cana, the Nativity, and the visit of the Magi. The word itself means “appearance” or “manifestation.” Epiphany is the season to deeply reflect on the meaning of God’s earthly revelation in Jesus Christ.

We celebrate Christ’s coming for the whole world and will begin the season with an evening vespers at 6 pm followed by burning of the greens and a sharing of the last of the Christmas goodies and singing Christmas Carols.

We hope you will join in the celebration.

January marks the beginning of a new season of light. The light of Christ fills the world and we are called to be the light of Christ for the world. We do that by telling our stories and inviting others to come and see the Jesus we know. I would ask you all to consider making January “invite friends to church month.” Let the light of Christ shine in the hearts of your friends and neighbors by bringing them to St. Paul’s with you for worship.

Also, take special note of the Vicar’s internship project which will take place in February. There is space for 20 participants from our fellowship and I want to encourage you to sign up and learn how to better tell your story. Your story in relationship to your faith is an important story and one that should be shared. The workshop will also give you valuable insight into story telling in general and will help you tell stories to your children and grandchildren.

January is also a time to prepare for the rest of 2018. It is a time when the congregation needs your generosity of time, talent, and resources. We want to plan to grow this year and that means making sure that our facilities are in order. Come and join the Tuesday work crew and help to spruce up our buildings and grounds. Come to Sunday School and learn and enhance your knowledge of faith. Come and be a part of Wednesday night dinners, help with preparation, clean up and planning. Come and see the faith community in action.

May the God of light brighten your life this January and always.

Pastor Scott

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## From the Vicar...

For our upcoming Epiphany worship service (On

Saturday, Jan 6 at 6:00 PM), our Epistle text will come from Ephesians 3:1-12. In part, it reads, “This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.”

According to this letter, Paul is a prisoner on account of the gospel message he is sharing among the Gentiles, and he is appealing to the story of his calling which he describes here as “a revelation.” If you are anything like me, you might be thinking that Paul left out the best part: the story!

First of all, there’s the story of the revelation which serves as Paul’s calling and how he came to be “the Apostle to the Gentiles” (see Acts 9:1-19). Secondly, there’s the story of how Paul ended up in jail. (You know that if your buddy ended up in jail, there would be a funny and/or sad tale describing the events that led up to the arrest, at the very least.) We know Paul’s imprisonment is on account of the gospel preached to the Gentiles, but we do not know any of the juicy details. Later in the letter, Paul will refer to himself as “an ambassador in chains” (Eph. 6:20) which is an intriguing title that only increases the curiosity because he still fails to provide details. Paul was a prisoner on several occasions in multiple locations. Without any details, we do not know to which imprisonment he is referring to in this letter.

In other letters, Paul uses his life experiences (i.e. his story) as tools for preaching the gospel message (see 2 Cor. 11:21b-12:10, for example). Paul was not typically shy about sharing the details, especially when it made him look bad (so that Christ could look good); he called it boasting in his weakness. Paul knew the stories of our lives are the stories of God’s narrative – God’s story; our lives.

In a few short weeks, we will have the opportunity to engage with Rev. Rebecca Anderson, a professional storyteller ([www.earshotstories.com](http://www.earshotstories.com)) and Disciples of Christ minister ([www.gileadchicago.org](http://www.gileadchicago.org)), to learn about the craft of storytelling so that we can share our joys in the grace of God, as well as boast in our weaknesses, like Paul. The storytelling workshop is called “God’s Story. Our Lives.” and will run Thursday, Feb 8 - Saturday, Feb 10, 2018. The evening of Thursday, Feb 8, 6:00-9:00 PM we will gather for an introductory workshop on the art of storytelling and engage in interactive ways of crafting stories. Friday, Feb 9, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM you will have the opportunity, if you so choose, to meet with Rebecca one-on-one to help shape a particular story you may have in mind, whether it is for public performance or not. A sign-up sheet will be

available at Thursday evening's workshop. Saturday, Feb 10, Rebecca will meet with that night's tellers for the storytelling event. In the afternoon, there will be more opportunities of one-on-one meetings, culminating in a story-telling event on Saturday evening beginning at 7:00 PM where approximately 8 preselected people will share their stories around a particular theme. Registration for the storytelling workshop is free but required; there will be a limited number of seats available.

Whether you participate in the storytelling workshop or not, you are invited to a FREE evening of stories from preselected tellers on Saturday, Feb 10, at 7 PM. (You will not be asked to share a story simply by showing up.) Dessert and coffee will be provided. Registration for the Saturday evening storytelling event is not required.

To register for the workshop or for questions about any of this, please contact me ([vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) or 919.489.3214, ext. 24).

Love in Christ, Vicar Adam

## Duke Lutherans

It has been a great fall semester with Duke Lutherans. Vicar Ali has brought so many gifts to our community. We have stellar student leadership, DJ Chatelaine as Duke Lutherans President, Julie Tonessen as Divinity School liaison, and Alex "Milo" Miley as our Community Outreach Coordinator. We have added extra programming including Wednesday luncheons for students (averaging 12-15 students per week), Theology on Tap which has expanded to include other young adults in the area, and our first Operation Cookie Break complete with non-alcoholic sparkling cider at the Perkins Library during Exam week.

So let me take this opportunity to say thank you for your support, for the home-cooked meals and goody bags, for the friendliness and warm welcome the students receive when they walk through the doors, for your prayers and monetary support. Duke Lutherans would not exist without the partnerships of St. Paul's, Grace, Duke University Religious Life, and the NC Synod. We are all in this together.

Vicar Ali and I have been plotting a great Spring semester with opportunities for community building, neighborliness, study and worship. Part of the highlight of this semester will be the "Why Christian?" conference hosted by the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber and Rachel Held Evens. This event will be held at Duke University, and we procured tickets for our students in late August expecting nationally known speakers and will be an excellent opportunity to engage our students around questions of faith, vocation, and particularly how we live

our faith in our daily lives.

As we begin a new year and a new semester, we trust that God will order our day and deeds in peace.

Laura Wind, Duke Lutherans

## Taste and See

Each Sunday evening, Duke Lutheran students gather at a table – first, to share in Holy Communion during our worship service, then to share a community supper. Students leave these gatherings feeling full and fed, both physically and spiritually, in large part thanks to you – members at St. Paul's and Grace who graciously provide these meals for our students week after week.

Whether you've served a Duke Lutherans dinner before or if it would be your first time, we invite you to come "taste and see" this growing, exciting, and important ministry for yourself, and consider signing up to provide dinner (home-cooked or store-bought is fine!) on one of the following dates: Jan 14, Jan 28, Feb 18, Mar 4, Mar 25, Apr 8, and Apr 15.

We gather at 5:30 pm in the York Room of the Divinity School for worship, and our community meal begins at 6:00 pm. Please email [alexandra.tranvik@duke.edu](mailto:alexandra.tranvik@duke.edu) for more information or to claim a date!

Thank you for the many ways you support this community.

Ali Tranvik, Duke Lutherans Vicar

## Welcome Council Members

### Tina Bessias



Tina Bessias joined St. Paul's with her family as a child; she has been a member for 45 years. At various times, she has taught Sunday School and confirmation class, helped in the nursery, chaired the Christian Education committee, sung in the choir, served on the altar guild, chaired the Arts Committee, and served committees to call a pastor and hire a minister of music. She also served on the Congregation Council from 2011-2013.

In her professional life, Tina is an English teacher and Blended Learning Coach at Durham Academy. She and her husband, Pakis, keep bees in their backyard, and some years they get to harvest honey.

### Curt Hahn

1975-1984, Frieda and I were members of St.



Timothy Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon. Served on church council at a time LCMS was in turmoil and St. Timothy voted to leave and joined the AELC.

1984-2013 Frieda and I were members of Desert Cross Lutheran Church in Tempe, Arizona (ELCA).

A mission start congregation. I served on church councils and various committees.

2013-present Frieda and I joined as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I volunteer to pick up bread Monday mornings for Durham Urban Ministries. I am a member of the Tuesday men's group and participates in the Saturday morning outside work crew.

**Lisa Lewis**



I was born into a Lutheran family, baptized, confirmed, and married in the Lutheran church. Currently I am a Personal Trainer and the Café Manager at the Levin Jewish Community Center just down the road. I have been married to my wonderful husband, Bob Lewis, for 10 years. I was blessed to inherit a

daughter, Aber Maskery and a son, Brian. There was about a 20-year span when I put my life before God's. I met Bob, and he brought me back to church by simply asking if he could go with me to service one day when we were dating. Before joining St. Paul's Lutheran, I was a member, with Bob at Christus Victor Lutheran in Durham. There I served on the Altar Guild, led adult Sunday School, served on council for three years which included one year as President. Bob and I have been members at St. Paul's for over 5 years. In those five years I have enjoyed serving a brief stint as Sunday School Teacher, I was fortunate to work on the Internship Committee, and I am blessed to be able to serve as Assisting Minister.

**We thank the following persons who have completed their three years on council:** Barbara Ellertson, Ken Land, Emily Vardell, as well as Marcia Redman (who completed Dotte William's term upon her death).

Per the Constitution of St. Paul's, the duties of the Congregation Council include:

- ▶ To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate it's activities in light of its missions and goals.
- ▶ To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
- ▶ To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and

perform its mission.

As members of the congregation we all share the responsibility for being good stewards of the resources God provides.

## A Commissioned Artwork for St. Paul's

*by Tina Bessias, Arts Committee Chair*

In Year "B" of the Revised Common Lectionary, the Advent readings include several passages from Isaiah that give us ways to envision God. Vicar Ali Tranvik wanted to focus on those images in her planning for the mid-week Advent services, and she approached the Arts Committee to discuss ways we might portray God the Potter, God the Shepherd, and God the Weaver. As we discussed the topic, ideas progressed from projector and screen to a congregational craft project (something with clay and wool?), to consulting a professional artist. We decided to contact Gordon Dean, a local sculptor who has experience with liturgical subjects and figural representations; he is also a friend of Morris Casper's. After seeing images of his two- and three-dimensional work with wire and galvanized, expanded steel, representatives of the committee and Vicar Ali met with Dean at St. Paul's. We then used Arts Committee funds and a donation in honor of Duke Lutherans to commission the work that was displayed in the sanctuary for Advent. The center figure portrays God as potter and God the Shepherd (with attendant sheep) is on the right. The left-hand figure holds a historical spindle winding yarn onto a spool; there are four more spools on the far left. The figure of Christ Emmanuel, the baby Jesus, was added for the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.

After Advent, this work will be mounted on a wall in the church. If you have a suggestion for placement, please share it with a member of the Arts Committee: Tina Bessias, Janet Seiz, Barbara Ellertson, Amanda Anderson, or Dick Clendaniel.

We hope that this work will be a focal point for contemplation and conversation about the ways we see God working in our lives.

### More about the artist:

Gordon Dean started his career in California, where he earned an MFA in Sculpture from the University of California, Berkeley; he has exhibited in various west coast venues. As a long time resident of the Triangle, Dean has shown his work in Golden Belt's Room 100 Gallery and the Durham Art Guild's SunTrust Gallery. He did a site specific installation at ArtSpace in Raleigh in 2016. Using wire and galvanized, expanded steel, Dean layers and forms this material to create figures that work together as groups. He present

series, "Figures from the Cathedral," echoes in a 21<sup>st</sup> century way how the human figure for centuries has formed a welcome facade on church exteriors.

## Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

Happy New Year! The teachers and I look forward to an exciting new year with our preschool children. We are just about half way through our school year and will begin registering for Fall 2018 this month. St. Paul's members (children and grandchildren) receive priority registration, which will begin January 8. If you have any questions about our program or would like to tour the preschool, please contact me at the church or email: [preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org). We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old.

Our teachers have many exciting things planned for this month. We spend time learning about the season of winter, including animals, the weather, hibernation, and of course, snow!

Mark your calendars for our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale Fundraiser which will take place on Wednesday, February 7 in Trinity Hall. Proceeds from the dinner portion will benefit our financial scholarship fund, which assists families who need financial support to send their child to preschool. The Bake Sale proceeds will benefit our playground. We are currently working on some new equipment ideas to add to the playground. Stay tuned for more information!

Thank you for your support and prayers of this flourishing ministry at St. Paul's!

## LWR, ELCA Good Gifts and Poinsettias

by Pat Casper

*Chairperson of Social Ministry Committee*

In 2017 the congregation at St. Paul's was given the opportunity to give to the congregation poinsettias for the sanctuary and/or donate towards the efforts of LWR or ELCA Good Gifts programs.

The gift of a beautiful poinsettia was easily visible as the brightly colored flowers glowed and added to the worship services. God's children at St. Paul's were so fortunate to have these to enjoy.

The gifts to LWR and ELCA Good Gifts were not visible as they were gifts to others, but they were just as important to the congregation at St. Paul's. They represented our response to the love of God by

supporting other children of God besides those here at St. Paul's.

LWR is, of course, Lutheran World Relief. This branch of our Lutheran Church outreach "is a non-profit organization that helps families in the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive." This organization works through a number of programs: Agricultural Development (e.g. assisting 3<sup>rd</sup> world farmers grow coffee and cocoa), Climate Adaptations and Mitigations (e.g. working with communities to prepare for natural disasters and participate in preventative measures against damage to God's creation), and Emergency Operations (e.g. food and water brought in for a community after an earthquake).

ELCA Good Gifts is a program of our church in the United States that likewise gives gifts that are not visible. This organization supports our efforts to give Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives." One could support someone in a country other than the US or in the US itself. Chicks and cows were available to send to someone in Africa. But as well, one could support a seminarian locally.

For all who participated in any of these special giving opportunities, on the behalf of the recipients known or unknown, "thank you."

For more information, you may visit the websites for the organizations.

## Quilting Ministry at St. Paul's

On Sunday, December 3, the Tongue and Thimble quilting ministry had on display 118 comforters and 5 NICU Blankets which are being donated to UNC Children's Hospital Pediatrics, UNC Children's Cancer Center, and Duke Health Center Pediatric Clinics. There were also 23 Christmas Stockings created by Penni Perrotte, which were given to Operation Santa Claus at Murdoch Center in Butner.

The quilting ministry is an opportunity for members of St. Paul's to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors in need and to provide a tangible symbol of God's love and compassion. The prayers and blessings of these items will travel along to those in need.

This group sews downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off the Genesis Hall. Most fabric is donated, however occasionally they must make purchases to have enough supplies. If you would like to make a donation, checks to St. Paul's noting for "quilts" can be dropped in the offering plate or in the finance drop box. Help is always welcome – if you sew, they meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 10:30 am at church.

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## A Huge Christmas Thank You!

The Women's Connection would like to thank everyone for their participation in our Giving Tree project. Our St. Paul's Congregation outdid themselves as we were able to provide more items than we committed to. Here are the items that were delivered to Durham Urban Ministries on December 5<sup>th</sup>:

- ✓ 33 small hams
- ✓ 27 bags/tins of cookies
- ✓ 1 large box of candy
- ✓ 5 medium boxes of candy
- ✓ 39 water bottles
- ✓ 18 backpacks
- ✓ 17 men's wallets
- ✓ 5 women's wallets
- ✓ 22 crisp \$5 bills to put in the wallets
- ✓ 18 art sets
- ✓ 16 girl items
- ✓ 10 comic action hero related items
- ✓ 5 MP3 players with ear buds
- ✓ 2 pairs of socks
- ✓ 1 pair of gloves
- ✓ 1 knit hat
- ✓ 10 quilts from the Tongue and Thimble group

Thank you for helping to make the season brighter for some of our Durham neighbors.

## Commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, Jan 14 at 3:00 pm, the Triangle Conference of Lutheran Churches will have a commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. and service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh. Preacher will be Fred Black, a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chapel Hill. There will be an All Conference Choir under the directorship of Shannon Schultz-Thomas of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh.

If you wish to accompany people who are going to the worship, we will lunch together after the 11:00 am service and then travel to Raleigh. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to join us. If you would like to sing in the joint choir, rehearsal will be at 2:00 pm, before the service at Holy Trinity. Questions? Contact Deborah Steed.

## Conflict to Communion – Continuing the Conversation

*by John Foreman*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Thomas More Catholic Church invites previous participants and anyone interested in joining in the discussion to a conversation on Lutheran and Catholic Baptismal theology and practices. This will be held in Trinity Hall of St. Paul's on January 14, 2018 at 5:30 pm. A light supper will be served. Please consider joining in. Any questions can be directed to John Foreman at [john.foreman@duke.edu](mailto:john.foreman@duke.edu).

## Young In Spirit Adventure

On January 10, YIS will go to Paperhand Puppet Intervention in Saxapahaw to see their beautiful paper-mâché puppets. Paperhand does several puppet shows each year. Following our time at Paperhand we will go to Reverence Farms Café in Graham. Reverence Farms grows its own produce and raises its own livestock for a true farm to table experience. We will meet at the church at 10:00 AM. Come out and join us, whatever your age, for a fun experience!

## Katherine Circle Meeting

The next meeting of the Katherine Circle will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 am. Vicar Adam Schultz will present our program, describing his faith journey. We will also be serving our annual Epiphany lunch to the men volunteers who faithfully work for St. Paul's every Tuesday, as well as the church staff. All women of the congregation are invited to attend both the meeting and the lunch.

Please note that we have changed our regular meeting time from the third Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of every month, so that we do not have to reschedule the November and December meetings.

No Committee Night Jan 2, committees can schedule your own meeting time. No Wednesday Night Supper on Jan 3. The meal on Jan 17 will be our Chili and Cornbread Cookoff - start getting your recipes ready!