

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2016

**Wednesday, February 3 –
Preschool Fundraising Spaghetti
Supper** – Join us for the 5th Annual
Preschool Fundraiser. Menu includes
spaghetti with sauce, meatballs, garlic bread,
salad, and cookies for dessert. Proceeds
provide scholarships for the preschool.

**Tuesday, February
9 – Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper at
6:00 pm in Trinity
Hall.**



Come enjoy pancakes, sausage, and applesauce as we prepare for Lent. What is Shrove Tuesday? The day before Lent begins is known as Shrove Tuesday. To "shrive" someone, in past history, is to hear an acknowledgment of sins and be assured of God's forgiveness (this is the practice of Ash Wednesday worship today). Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday (in French, Mardi-gras) because on this day households use up the fatty foods and cooking fat which will not be used during the forty days of Lent.

**Wednesday,
February 10 –
Ash Wednesday
Services** at 12:00
noon and 7:00 pm. Both
services include the imposition of ashes.

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**Friday, February 12 –
Valentine's Day
Big Band Bash at
7:00 pm in Trinity
Hall.**



Enjoy the sounds of the Durham Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band plus vocalists. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. All ages will enjoy the music from the big-band era and the dance floor will be open if you are so inclined. Please bring sweet or salty dessert treats to share with others. Beverages will be provided. For more info about DJO, talk to Larry Grovenstein, or visit www.durhamjazz.org This event is one you just don't want to miss!

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Joseph O'Donnell, Vicar
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, Pastor Emeritus
Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 * Fax: 919-490-1088 * Website: www.stpaulsdurham.org

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music@stpaulsdurham.org
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From the Pastor...

February brings about the beginning of Lent this year. Ash Wednesday is February 10th and we will begin that day a time of prayer and discernment, a time of repentance and forgiveness.

I plan to use the following topics for our mid-week Lenten devotions:

1. Open our Eyes, Lord
2. Open our Hands, Lord
3. Open our Ears, Lord
4. Open our Hearts, Lord
5. Open our Lives, Lord



I hope these meditations will

help us to spend the Lenten season in prayer and discernment for how God is ordering our lives this year at St. Paul's.

To assist our Lenten devotions, Lorrel Strom-Jensen will be offering Friday meditations on the Stations of the Cross in our sanctuary. Please join her at noon on Fridays during Lent. We will hold our normal Stations of the Cross worship at Noon on Good Friday and our Tenebrae service that evening.

Watch for announcements concerning Holy Week worship in the coming weeks.

In addition, you will find information about a prayer enrichment opportunity with the presentation of **War Room**. We will hold an afternoon of popcorn and a movie on February 21st at 3 pm. Come join us for this powerful movie on the power of Prayer.

Keep your Congregation Council in prayer especially on Saturday, February 6th as they meet for a continuation of planning and preparation for our year together.

May God bless and guide us as we prepare during this season of Lent.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

In all the many ways we divide ourselves as human beings, by race, gender, religion or denomination, or by any of a variety of labels that really have very little meaning, one that is rarely used, but I think could be helpful to consider is whether we are people who ask questions or seek answers. The next question might be, do I answer yes or no, or are those two different groups of people? But it is probably more valuable to think about it than it is to try to get the labels right.

Occasionally I encounter parts of our Christian tradition or practice of worship that make me say, "Wait, we do or say what? Why?" And several times I

have talked to others with similar questions, or an odd sense that something we do as Christians seems wrong or strange. Contrary to 20th century sociologist, Max Weber, who suggested that in religious environments there is a form of sacred dishonesty in which one can express beliefs that they do not believe, so long as everyone else is, I have always suggested, "If you're unsure about something we do, don't do it." But then I always follow this with, "But let the fact that everyone else around you is doing what you are not be a reminder that you should talk about it with others and learn what it means in the tradition and that it means to others."

The dilemma that Max Weber identifies is that the sense of participation and belonging in socio-religious circles often overshadows our willingness to ask questions and explore our faith. But our God is not a God of mandate and ignorant obedience. Romans 12 reminds us that God desires that we expand and renew our minds.

In the medieval period, when the priests conducted worship in Latin only, during communion the priests would say, "Hoc est corpus," meaning, "This is the body." The peasantry, who didn't know Latin but understood that Christ's body was present in the bread after the priest completed the invocation, rather than ask the questions, "What is this? Why do we do it?" concluded these must be magical words. Not long after that, "Hocus Pocus" became synonymous with magic. If only someone had stopped to ask. But taking the time to ask questions is more than avoiding silly foolishness like this. Taking the time to explore what we do in worship can give us a deeper appreciation and experience in our time of worship, and engaging others with simple questions like "What does this mean for you?" can open wonderful opportunities to talk about our faith and our experience in our life with Christ. And you never know who might be engaging in some sacred eaves dropping, and encounter your discussion as a witness to the wonders of the grace and blessing of God in our lives.

Vicar Joseph O'Donnell

A Lenten Journey: Biblical Stations of the Cross

Noon on Fridays during Lent
(Feb 12, 19, 26; Mar 4, 11)

by Lorrel Strom-Jensen

Lent is a reflective time that is guided by our lectionary, liturgy, and hymns in our worship. In our

personal devotions there are many options and journeying the way of the cross is a tradition that has its earliest forms observed and recorded beginning in the late 4th century. Please join me on Fridays during Lent at noon in the sanctuary to journey through the Biblical Stations of the Cross. Through scripture, hymns, and prayers we will follow the way of the cross and ponder the connections to this path that we experience daily in our own lives.



by Roberta Lloyd, Librarian

February is National Library Lovers Month and you can show your love for St. Paul's church library by making a special library offering on the second Sunday of February (Feb 14). This offering will comprise the library's total budget for the year of 2016 and will be used to purchase new materials and pay for magazine subscriptions. Any time during the year, you may donate money or materials in honor or in memory of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, etc. The library also accepts donations of new or gently-used religious books and DVD for adults and children. Any donations not added to the library are put in the annual church yard sale. As Martin Luther said, "No effort or expense should be spared to establish good libraries and depositories of books."

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

When we returned to school in January, the children began learning all about winter. They've been learning about the season of winter, making snowflakes and snowmen of all kinds, tossing around paper "snowballs" and learning about the animals we associate with winter. On our very cold days, we observed how long it took water in cups to freeze outside.

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, February 3rd**! The preschool will be hosting our 5th annual **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**. 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 prepare and serve the dinner as well as cleaning up. Our 3s and 4s will sing some of their favorite preschool songs!

Enrollment for the fall has begun! Registration forms and enrollment procedures can be picked up downstairs in the preschool space or can be downloaded from the church web site. We will be offering classes for children ages 10 months - 4 years old. Please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

Who you gonna call? Stephen Ministers!

by Kim Hoke

Have you ever wondered who might benefit from Stephen Ministry, how the process begins, or how to find out if it is right for you or someone you know? Stephen Ministry is appropriate for people experiencing these and more:

- grief
- divorce
- cancer
- hospitalization
- physical rehabilitation
- long-term care
- chronic illness
- terminal illness
- job loss
- loss of a home
- military deployment
- the onset of a disability
- loneliness
- spiritual crisis
- other life struggles



To check out Stephen Ministry or request information, contact Pastor Anderson or Stephen Leader Judy Kraska at 919-260-9617. A bulletin board in the upstairs elevator hallway has more information on the current Stephen Ministers.

Durham IHN Transition Update

by Ellen Lavery and Margot Wuebbens

As of December 31, 2015, Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network (DIHN) has merged with Genesis Home, one of the other organizations in Durham that help homeless families gain permanent housing. This merger has created a new organization named Families Moving Forward (FMF).

FMF will use the previous Genesis Home facility located just north of the Main Durham Library branch

downtown. The lower level of this building at 300 N. Queen Street is currently being renovated to provide housing for the additional families that used to be part of DIHN. After renovations are complete this summer, it is anticipated that FMF will be able to accommodate approximately 21 families at a time, with expectations of serving 80 families per year. At that point, all FMF families will be living in this FMF facility. Since they will not longer be rotating through host churches, the current system of hosting as we know it will no longer exist.

FMF is hoping to continue working with the congregations who have hosted for DIHN over the past several years. At this time, we are unsure of what that will look like for our congregation, so St. Paul's has not yet officially committed itself to volunteering for the new partnership. We will keep the congregation posted as we get more information on how we may be able to serve FMF in the future.

However, you still have two more opportunities to participate in the hosting experience as we have known it with DIHN. St. Paul's will be hosting families February 21-28 and May 8-15 before the FMF renovation is complete. Look for the sign-up sheets in the foyer prior to our hosting weeks. If you have any questions about hosting jobs, please contact Margot Wuebbens or Ellen Lavery.

Popcorn and a Movie



Come join your St. Paul's family for the viewing of the movie **WAR ROOM** on Sunday, February 21 at 3:00 PM.

WAR ROOM is a compelling drama that explores the power that prayer can have on marriages, parenting, careers, friendships, and every other area of life. It has been a feature presentation in theaters and now we have an opportunity to view it during this Lenten time as we look at the connectivity of prayer, faith, and spirituality. From the creators of *Fireproof* and *Courageous*, **WAR ROOM** uses humor and heart in creating a "battle plan" of prayer for life.

Lauren's Chemo Care Bags

During the month of February, Duke Lutherans will collect items for "Lauren's Chemo Care Bags," an organization that one of our very own Duke Lutherans

freshmen, Lauren Moe, started in an effort to comfort and care for breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. Duke Lutherans will be collecting items, assembling the bags, and delivering them to the patients in person ... but we need your help! Over the course of the next month, please donate and drop off any of the items below in the box labeled "Chemo Care Bags" in the foyer. Thank you for being a part of this important Duke Lutherans service project!

- ▶ reusable bags (with handles or drawstrings)
- ▶ plastic water bottles (BPA free)
- ▶ sugar-free hard candy (lemon or peppermint)
- ▶ peppermint or chamomile tea
- ▶ toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ▶ lotions
- ▶ hand sanitizer or wet wipes
- ▶ body wash/soap
- ▶ inspirational bookmarks
- ▶ fuzzy socks
- ▶ mini tissue/Kleenex packages
- ▶ mini-pocket calendar
- ▶ scarves
- ▶ pens/or pencils
- ▶ blankets or quilts
- ▶ knit socks and hats
- ▶ note pads
- ▶ nail files/emery boards
- ▶ lip balm
- ▶ small packaged snacks
- ▶ puzzle books or magazines

To learn more about Lauren and her organization, you can visit: <http://laurenemoe.wix.com/chemocarebags>

WCPE (89.7 FM) and theclassicalstation.org

For the past few years, FM station WCPE of Wake Forest, NC has mentioned, on the air on Sunday mornings, support given by our St. Paul's Lutheran Church together with four other Triangle Area churches. Such acknowledgment of support by our congregation will continue through June 2016. All of this results from annual requests to our parishioners, who regularly contribute to WCPE, to instead cumulate their contributions within the congregation and give one collective contribution to the station in the name of the congregation.

Now is the time to start thinking of another request for contributions for continuing mention of our congregation for another year. Starting in February 2016, an effort will be made to collect the necessary \$1,000.00 of gifts from interested members of our

congregation, to continue the relationships with WCPE. Please contact Dick Havill if you are interested in making a gift to WCPE. He can be reached at Sunday services and at 919-929-2755 or dhavill@bellsouth.net.

To make a contribution, please make your check payable to WCPE and give it to Dick for delivery to the FM station when we reach the goal.

COUNCIL CORNER

by Mike Mauriello, President
Congregational Council

The 2016 congregation council welcomed new members Maria Chi, Bonnie Cooper, Marilyn Hawley, and George Seiz at our January planning session. Here is a summary of what was discussed:

1. For those who have not heard, council had eliminated the funding for a new vicar as of Aug/Sept of 2016. This was a very hard decision but one that we felt had to happen based on end of year numbers. Our typical sponsorship of a vicar includes their lodging and a modest salary. This year, Pastor was asked to accept a vicar from the seminary that would not require lodging because they are already local. Several congregation members approached Pastor and offered to donate the funds to cover the new vicar's 2016 salary. The council voted unanimously to approve the new vicar for the 2016/2017 year (typically Sept thru Aug). We felt that we are already understaffed enough as it is and this was too good of an opportunity to pass up. We will have to add the expense back into the 2017 budget.
2. Another main topic of discussion was improving communication with the congregation. We have not finished with this subject, but it would be safe to say that we all agree that we should use a combination of Congregational Meetings, Cross Connections, our web site, the Sunday bulletin, announcements at both services, Susan's "Parish Notes" and discussions at Wednesday night dinners to keep everyone informed.
3. The upcoming purchase of the Paschall property was also discussed. There is a separate committee currently studying different possibilities of how to best utilize the house and approximately 4 acres.
4. The date of Sunday, February 21 was chosen for the next Congregational Meeting.

We welcome your ideas and input. Please don't hesitate to contact a council member if there is

something you would like for us to consider. Thanks to all of you for making St. Paul's a wonderful congregation to be a part of!

Duke Lutherans "New Life"

by Ashley Acken

new
Life

As we enter into the time of Lent, Duke Lutherans is continuing to bring new life to Duke's campus and beyond. New life is being brought to the ministry through students gathering for our Faith in Everyday Life series once a month. These students come from all denominations and programs at Duke to ponder

topics such as vocation, certainty/doubt and food justice. New life is students serving each week by tutoring children from Durham or visiting residents of The Forest at Duke connecting themselves to the community of Durham. Student run movements, such as Lauren's Chemo Bags, is bringing new life. New life is congregation members continuing to provide delicious food for our weekly dinners. New life is brought every week as we gather to pray, sing, and be in community with one another around the table. New life is a full-time campus minister being called to Duke Lutherans. New life is found in Duke Lutherans this year. Let us be thankful for the reminders of new life amongst the darkness.

Local Heroine, Pauli Murray

by Barbara Ellertson and Marilyn Bell-Hawley

You are invited to join us for a small-group expedition to hear Professor Patricia Bell-Scott read from her just-published book, "The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice." This will be held on **February 23 at 7:00 pm** at the Franklin Humanities Institute in the Smith Warehouse (near Duke's East Campus).

If you aren't familiar with Pauli Murray's life story, a copy of her autobiography, *Proud Shoes*, has been donated to our Fowler Memorial Library and can be checked out.

To quote from the Duke Human Rights website: "Pauli Murray was a champion for civil and human rights who grew up in Durham. Her insights and vision continue to resonate powerfully in our times. As a historian, attorney,

poet, activist, teacher and Episcopal priest, she worked throughout her life to address injustice, to give voice to the unheard, to educate, and to promote reconciliation between races and economic classes. Her beautifully written memoir, *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family*, was published in 1956. The book chronicles her roots and paints a compelling portrait of Durham during its formative years.”

A sign-up sheet for a ride to the Feb 23rd reading will be posted outside the Fowler Memorial Library. Depending on how many people sign up, we'll either travel to the Smith Warehouse in one or two cars, OR take the St. Paul's van (if IHN doesn't need it that evening). Please join us for fellowship, learning, and inspiration!

Campus Ministry Call Committee

by Amanda Stoen, Chairperson

The Campus Ministry Call Committee has narrowed down the candidate list and began interviewing candidates in late January and will continue interviews through February. We hope these interviews yield a strong candidate to continue moving forward with. We will continue to update you as we progress. Thank you for your continued prayers as the call committee works together to find our new Duke Campus Minister.

Young In Spirit

The February activity for Young In Spirit will take place on February 10, Ash Wednesday. We will attend the 12:00 service and then gather after service in Trinity Hall for a sack lunch and some game time. Please join us!



Healthy Living Series

The Healthy Living topic for February is diabetes. Please, come join us at 10:00 am on Friday, February 12, for coffee and a presentation by the Durham County Health Department. It may be an opportunity to learn something new. There will be time for discussion and questions following the presentation.

Recycle/Repurpose

As we consider ways we can be Caring for Creation, we can also be saving money in our homes and businesses. Consider the following ideas.



February tips of the month:

- ▶ Schedule an energy audit to learn more about your energy consumption and what steps you can take to cut energy costs.
- ▶ Check furnace filters and air conditioner filters. They should be cleaned or replaced monthly to help the unit run at peak efficiency. If you have an outdoor unit, make sure its coils are unobstructed by debris, plants or shrubs.
- ▶ Install ceiling fans to save money on heating and cooling and reduce energy waste.

Growing Thru Grief

Have you or someone you know lost a loved one and are journeying through grief? There is a free, open, confidential program sponsored by a coalition of area organizations and churches (ours included) to offer support and education to those who mourn. It meets weekly on Tuesdays at St. Paul's. Refreshments and registration begin at 4:00 pm, followed by presentations and discussion from 4:30 until 6:00 pm led by professionals and trained facilitators. Upcoming topics include "Visualizing Grief's Journey" on Feb 2, and "Our Continued Relationships with the Departed" on Feb. 26. All are welcome to come whenever you can. For more information, email: growingthrugrief@gmail.com



Marriage Encounter Weekend

The next weekend will be at Clarion Hotel in Myrtle Beach on Feb 26-Feb 28, 2016. All married couples are invited. The weekend includes two nights and five meals along with the opportunity to get to know the one you fell in love with in a deeper and more fulfilling way. This is the most affordable opportunity to learn more about each other and God's plan for your life together that you may ever encounter.

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is for married couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. Whether you're newly married – or have been married for decades – good communication is the key to keeping your love relationship vibrant and strong! For more information, visit www.Godlovesmarriage.org.

In the Mailbag...

On behalf of the residents of Durham County Community Living Programs, Inc., we would like to thank you for your donation of \$100 to our program dated December 21, 2015 and given in honor of Signe Offenbergl.

We appreciate being the beneficiary of your generous donation. We are a private, non-profit organization, so donations are always useful and needed. We want you to know that your donation will be used to support the residents of our residential programs.

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Rehbock
Finance and Development Director*

* * * * *

Thank you for your donation of \$250.00 on December 21, 2015, to Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network. We are so grateful for your contribution. We would not be able to carry out our mission without supporters like you.

We hope you will continue to support DIHN as we merge with Genesis Home into Families Moving Forward. The merger will enable us to expand our programming, especially in children's programming and Aftercare. Aftercare programming provides on-going support for families that have achieved housing so that they can maintain and stabilize their independence.

*With warmest regards,
Catherine Pleil, Executive Director*

* * * * *

Thank you for your donation to DCIA. Your partnership keeps our work going to bring religious communities together for healing poverty, racism and violence in Durham. With your support, we've worked to connect such congregations to schools with children in need of additional food and tutoring support, in our Feed and Read Campaign. In addition, we've coordinated two Sacred Visitations weeks this year, bringing Durham residents to diverse houses of

worship in different traditions. We've brought diverse ministers together to share their work with each other, and sponsored an inter-religious Thanksgiving program this fall, as well as educational programs for congregational leaders about inter-religious partnership and service.

*Sincerely,
Spencer W. Bradford, DCIA Executive Dir.*

* * * * *

Pastor Scott and St. Paul's,

On behalf of Bangsor Lutheran Church, thank you so much for sending us ELWs. Bangsor has several worship leaders who plan and coordinate the liturgy for each week, but few resources to equip these awesome lay leaders. These ELWs will be a fantastic resource for them and they are very excited to have them. Thank you for your support and care for brothers and sisters across the world.

*God's blessings,
Daniel and Bangsor Lutheran Church*

More than Just Financial Peace

With the beginning of Lent, St. Paul's will be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Currently we have a handful of people interested in participating as well as a couple commitments to provide scholarships. One aspect of the class that is very valuable is discussion, and we would love to have a few more voices to participate.

But this will be more than just a course in personal finance. Because our calling from God and our lives are more than just what we do with our money, we'll also have a brief discussion of how we can use concepts for healthy financial living in other aspects of our lives.

The classes will be Monday nights from 6:00 pm until 7:30, starting February 15th. The full program runs 9 weeks, but there are several ways to accommodate missing one or two weeks if that becomes necessary because of scheduling conflicts. There is a program cost to cover the cost of materials of \$100 per household or couple. The materials can be shared by a couple or by a family (since teenagers are also welcome to participate). We do have some scholarship resources available. Please sign up in the foyer to talk to Vicar Joseph if you're interested or have any questions.

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

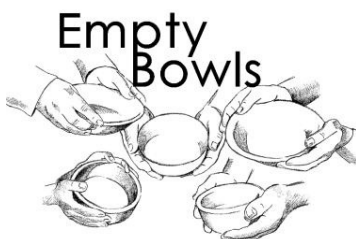
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Empty Bowls

Tickets have just gone on sale for Empty Bowls 2016, to be held the evening of Thursday, March 3 at the Durham Convention Center.

It's the 10th anniversary of our signature special event, and this year, our goal is to raise \$100,000, the most money ever, to offer food, shelter and a future to very poor and homeless neighbors through Urban Ministries of Durham. You'll have the chance to sample soups prepared by more than a dozen local chefs (restaurants to be announced later) and vote for your favorites. Local artists and artisans are making hundreds of hand-crafted bowls, and you can choose a ticket that allows you to select one to take home. The family-friendly evening (kids 6 and under are admitted free) lets you have a great time and learn a little bit more about the work UMD does to feed, clothe, and shelter your neighbors. Contact Info: Urban Ministries of Durham, www.umdurham.org



Welcome New Members

We welcome Joshus Young and Shevonn Hinshaw who joined on Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Joshua Young comes to us from Lord of Life Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Illinois. He is a second-year PhD student in the Religious Studies department at Duke University where his work focuses on American religious history, particularly 20th century developments and megachurches.

2920 Chapel Hill Rd, Apt 73-B
Durham, NC 27707
330-858-9821
jmy0582@gmail.com

Shevonn Hinshaw joined by Affirmation of Baptism. She is the wife of Robert Hinshaw and has two children: Kayden and Hunter. She is also the daughter-in-law of Betty Hinshaw.

404 Churton Grove Blvd
Hillsborough NC 27278
919-732-6226

shevonn.griffith@gmail.com

Prayers of Sympathy

We offer our prayers of sympathy to the following:

- ✝ The family and friends of Elva Regalado, aunt of Brenda Linares
- ✝ The family and friends of Kenzie Ruston, a friend of Heidi York
- ✝ The family and friends of Bill Sackett (nephew of Jim Sackett)

Adult Sunday School

Come join the Adult Sunday School class, which meets in Whitesell Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45-10:45 am, coffee provided!

- ▶ Feb 7 – Insight about World Religions, by Judy Schlegel: Hinduism
- ▶ Feb 14, 21, 28 and Mar 6 – The Reformation of Suffering, by David Franzen

Trinity Kitchen Help

With our regular Wednesday night suppers, Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, and Lenten weekly suppers, we are in need of additional Trinity Kitchen Crew members. You can help whenever available. We'll be happy to train in any area: food prep, setting up, cleaning up, running dishwasher. It's a wonderful fellowship opportunity and you are working with a great group of people! Contact the staff if you can help.