

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 2019

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 8 at 9:45 am

Rally Day - a special day at the end of the summer to "rally" together with a similar purpose - seeking God's Word, for praying, serving, learning, and worshipping.



Join us in Trinity Hall as we begin this school year of Adult learning which includes Bible studies, adult discussions, Lutheran topics, and Hymnody. Adults will be meeting in either the Conference Room or Trinity Hall on Sundays at 9:45-10:45 am. Do you have a topic you would like to see explored in the Adult sessions? Contact Deborah Steed. Thursday morning Bible Study returns on September 5 at 10:30-11:45 am, meeting in the conference room. They will continue their study of Job, chapter 9. All are welcome!

We invite all children aged 4 through 14 to begin a new schedule of lessons, music, crafts, and food with the following topics this year: Creation, Mary & Martha, Daniel, Advent and Christmas, Wisemen, and Love is. Classes begin September 15th. The children will be in the downstairs using various rooms, depending on the manner of lessons that day. Can you lend a hand for a Sunday or two? Our children would appreciate other congregation members leading a lesson for them. All materials are conveniently written out but we need adults to participate. Contact Betty Hinshaw if you can assist.

Rally Day is a perfect day to greet people who have been traveling, and spend some time with those who attend a different service than you. We will be providing pastries, bagels, and fruit.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Anna Carter, Vicar

The Rev. Ali Tranvik, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

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From the Pastor..

I have to admit I struggled with where to begin this month. I could tell you how wonderful it was to participate in former Vicar Adam's ordination and how great it was to see 14 or so members of St. Paul's in attendance

<https://sweetestmomentsphotos.passgallery.com/-adamschultzordination/gallery> is the link to photos.

I could talk about Rally day, Consecration Sunday, the Church Wide Assembly. I could share the joys of being a grandfather for the third time. I could have written about the blessing of Pastor Ali and the wonderful article she wrote about Duke Lutherans and encourage you all to contribute to the campaign to sustain that ministry.

I should probably give an update on the search for a new bookkeeper. We are in the middle of this search and a team from finance and council will begin to interview candidates sometime in the middle of this month.

But most of this has been in bulletin inserts, email blasts and hopefully talked about in the halls of St. Paul's.

God is alive and well, moving through the world and I think sometimes we forget we are not in this life alone. All of the things above are about what we are doing, how we relate to one another and are very important. But I would like to take this time in September to call us to a renewed life of prayer.

I would like to suggest we use the month of September to lift one another in prayer and to pray to God to guide and bless us as we move into a new academic year and as we anticipate the new church year soon to come.

I would remind us of the words of Romans 8:26-28: *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

Pray for the Spirit to guide us, to bless this fellowship and lead us in the paths that are pleasing in God's sight.

One of the best ways to focus your prayer life is to identify the passion for which you may be called to



intercede. God has already planted this in your heart. As one grows in a life of prayer, the desire to pray beyond one's needs increases. Listen to your heart and pray.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar..

Thank you!!

As I write this I am finishing my first week at St. Paul's. It has been a wonderful week! I have had difficulty falling asleep each night

because I am so excited to go to work the next day. After nearly 20 years of dreaming about being a pastor and going to seminary twice for two different degrees, I can hardly believe that I am at this point in my journey – I am serving a church as a vicar!!

I am humbled by the kindness I have received from you already. George, Phil, and Dick from the Tuesday Work Group offered their time and energy as they spent several hours helping me move my belongings to the downstairs of Damascus House. And the pounding – my goodness!! I am deeply moved by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you for the paper goods, cleaning supplies, gift cards, and gluten free, vegetarian food. My heart is overflowing more than the tub the pounding items were in!!

Please continue to remind me of your names when I see you. I am hoping to learn and memorize them quickly, but thank you in advance for your grace.

Vicar Anna



Kick Off the New School Year with Duke Lutherans!

by Pastor Ali Tranvik

Join Duke Lutherans for an outdoor worship service and picnic in the park as we begin the new school year! On Sunday evening, Sept 15th from 5:30-7:00 pm, we'll gather at the Fisher

Amphitheater of Duke Gardens for an evening of food, fellowship, and family-friendly fun. Fisher Amphitheater is located off Flowers Drive, approx. 50 yards east of the fish pond. Parking is available in the



Duke Gardens parking lot off Anderson Street. In the case of rain, we'll gather in the York Room of Duke Divinity School, in which case parking is available in the Bryan Lot behind the Chapel.

Please bring a blanket or lawn chair, and a food item to share by last name:

- ▶ A-F: Beverages
- ▶ G-L: Veggie, fruit, or salad
- ▶ M-P: Bread or dessert
- ▶ Q-Z: Main course item

We look forward to sharing an evening together in the gardens as we welcome both new and returning members of the Duke Lutherans community. See you there!

Duke Lutherans Spotlight

Welcome to "Duke Lutherans Spotlight," a bi-monthly feature story that spotlights a member of the Duke Lutherans community. This month, we hear from Katie Cannon, a sophomore Medieval & Renaissance Studies major from Bethesda, MD.



What were you up to this summer, Katie?

I worked for Red Zeppelin productions, a small production company in the DC area. I hope to work in the film industry so it was an amazing opportunity to gain practical experience.

Tell us more about your interest in film production.

I've always been a big fan of movies and learned as much as I could about how they were made and who made them, but I never really considered filmmaking as a career path until the end of high school, when I joined a student-run organization dedicated to high schoolers interested in entering the film industry. I was invited to work on some student sets and made some amazing friends. The experience helped me realize that this was what I wanted to do with my career.

What's your dream job?

I've discovered that I love [the assistant director role]. The assistant director is the person who runs all of the practical parts of the set, supervising the schedule, coordinating the actors and crew, and making sure things run smoothly. My plan is to work in production as an assistant director and someday producer on big budget movies in Hollywood. My dream job would be to work for Marvel!

How have you continued to explore your passion for film at Duke?

I've found an amazing filmmaking community at Duke and have been fortunate enough to have the chance to produce several music videos and assistant direct two short films. I'm currently interning for Magic Factory, a production company in Durham run by a Duke alumnus. Next spring, I'll be studying in Los Angeles for the semester as part of a program for Duke students interested in arts industries. I'll be taking a class at the USC film school, and I will have a film internship throughout the semester.

When you're not on set, what do you do on campus?

When I came to Duke, I was looking for a church community like my church at home, as I've always been very involved with my church. Duke Lutherans has risen above and beyond what I could have expected. I love the weekly Fellowship Lunches as a place to spend time with Pastor Ali and the other Duke Lutherans. I also really wanted somewhere that I could participate in community service. Through Duke Lutherans, I took part in Rise Against Hunger, a meal-packing event at St. Paul's last spring, and we're currently talking about additional ways to address hunger in Durham. I also love attending Sunday service as a quiet spot to reflect in my always hectic week. I'm so grateful to have this amazing and supportive community behind me.

What have you gotten involved in through Duke Lutherans?

One of my favorite things so far is Adopt-a-Duke-Lutheran, where families in our two sister churches sign up to be "parents" away from home for Duke students. I have a wonderful adopted family from Grace, Mo and Donna Watson, and I can even begin to describe how amazing they've been to me. Knowing that I have people to turn to who want to cook me a homemade dinner or who can't wait to hear about what I've been doing at Duke is incredible. We've been keeping in touch over the summer and are planning a time to see each other in the fall.

S-T-E-W-A-R-D-S-H-I-P

Here's a question: What does "stewardship" start with? If you are a good speller, you know that it starts with an "s," right? But if you are a good student of the Bible, you might answer: "It starts with God!"

As September is stewardship month, you will be

reading and hearing and singing about stewardship every Sunday. You will see and hear bulletin inserts and Temple Talks, thought pieces that will encourage us to take to heart God's call on our lives and God's many gifts to us.

This September focus on Stewardship is designed to prepare us to make decisions about how we will spend, save, and give from our paychecks, investments, or retirement funds in 2020. Put these dates on your calendar, so you won't forget.

SEPTEMBER 8, RALLY DAY between Services

On Rally Day, in addition to kicking off Sunday School for the year, the Stewardship Committee will highlight giving for the children. We will again be distributing little banks so that the children (and their families) can practice giving all during September – concluding with a Noisy Offering on Consecration Sunday. Come and hear more.

SEPTEMBER 29, CONSECRATION SUNDAY at both services

On Consecration Sunday, we will be invited to bring our commitments (pledge cards) to be consecrated for the ministries of St. Paul's.

If you haven't made a pledge to St. Paul's before, we hope that you will stretch your comfort zone by making a giving commitment of any amount. If you are a seasoned pledger, please use the weeks leading to Consecration Sunday to consider sacrificial giving, which also stretches you. All information is confidential and pledges are very easy to change if your situation changes.

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH!

- ◆ Will you please pray for our 2019 appeal?
- ◆ Will you please prayerfully consider your commitment for 2020 so that you can respond generously?

You will receive a Statement of Intent (pledge card) in the mail or your church bulletin. If you don't get a card, let the church office know. If you cannot be at church on Consecration Sunday, please bring your pledge early or mail it to arrive by September 29.

Know that your offering – *whatever amount you give* – is deeply appreciated and makes our ministries possible!

Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

This month we welcome our new and returning families to the preschool to start an incredible new school year. We continue offering seven classes among our four classrooms, with about 52 children enrolled.

We are also celebrating 10 years as a preschool all year long! Here is a little reflection from one of our preschool alumni families.

We absolutely LOVED our time at St. Paul's. We always enjoyed the pumpkin patch! Ms. Alisa was the best teacher as Quin entered into his first year of preschool. But he loved every one of the teachers! Eliza adored Ms. Katherine. From the fun Easter egg hunt to the spaghetti supper fundraiser, we all look back to our time there and have fond memories :) Thanks for all you've done in making this such a sweet place for families.

The Bailey Family

This month, St. Paul's will again partner with Durham Community Preschool to offer a parent series on Conscious Discipline. You are invited to attend and learn more about Conscious Discipline, a self-regulation program that can be used at school and at home. The sessions will be offered here at St. Paul's on Wednesdays 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, and 10/9 from 10:00-11:00 am in Trinity Hall. We will offer two evening sessions at Durham Community Preschool on Thursdays 9/19 and 10/3 from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the sessions. Conscious Discipline teaches skills that can be used from birth throughout our entire lives.

It's already that time of year to relink your Harris Teeter VIC card. When you link your card to St. Paul's Preschool & PMO, we will receive a portion of your purchases from Harris Teeter. The Harris Teeter account number is 3049. You can link in any store or online and you do not need to be a preschool parent to link your card. Thank you for supporting the preschool!

We have a few more spots in our Twos classes this fall. Visit our web site – <http://stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com> or please contact me at the church or email: preschool@stpaulsdurham.org for more information.

What is CCG?

Marilyn Bell-Hawley

The acronym, CCG means Continuing Conversations Group.

But what does it mean, you might ask? Continuing Conversations about what?

The Group was formed by several of us following Bishop Eaton's request that congregations have "A conversation about race," in response to several shooting of Black men and boys by white police officers and others.

Many of us felt that much more than a conversation was needed; that we needed to understand some of the dynamics and circumstances that created such hate and violent circumstances. We chose to focus right here in Durham and its communities. We felt that we didn't know enough about our own neighbors.

We invited faculty and staff from North Carolina Central University, the nation's first state supported liberal arts HBCU, including staff with Civil Rights connections who shared first hand experiences of that time in history. Duke's Lutheran Pastor joined the Group and involved students. We have reached out to a local family who came here as refugees and offered support and assistance with employment, transportation, and visits. Former Duke University's Muslim Imam Waheed enlightened us about the practices of that community.

And so what began as "A" conversation about race has expanded our knowledge in a myriad of ways, such as learning about Pauli Murray, the first "African American, gay woman ordained as an Episcopal Priest." Her childhood home is here in Durham and has been named a National Historic Landmark, thanks to the support and advocacy of some of us. Our efforts as a Group and the ongoing dialogue that brought deeper understanding among us as many of these sessions, also became the Project for one of our former Vicars. There have been many other gatherings, outings, tours, speakers, and discussions on topics and events that are too numerous to list, that we, very likely would not have participated in, nor discussed, according to many of you, had it not been for CCG.

We are discovering that by having continued conversations on some of the more challenging topics, such as racial and religious differences, crime and poverty, inevitably leads to further discussions on



disparities in other areas. Such as the achievement gap in education, immigration issues, and gender bias, since none of these events occurs in isolation.

And the more discussion and exchange of ideas we have, the more likely we are to become creative in helping to find solutions. Our Rise Against Hunger Project is an example of us joining together to help combat a global issue. As our efforts continue more of you are offering suggestions, sharing your related experiences, and making requests for repeat programs! Some of you have admitted to having wanted to know more, and talk about some of these issues, but did not feel comfortable initiating the conversation. There are even plans to join in support of other Ministries and groups in areas where our programs align.

So what is this **Continuing Conversations Group**?

Since our formation as a Group, we have pondered and attempted a mission statement ... to no avail! It is an item that appears often on our agenda at meetings, yet we struggle with defining who we are.

I know that all of us are "on a mission" with or without a statement to define us.

Our mission can be seen and felt and heard each time we facilitate our coming together either as a congregation, or small group sharing our genuine selves.

Our mission is reflected in our care for each other, our outreach into the community, into the world as we feed the hungry, lend a hand to those whose gender and sexual preferences is not the same as our own, and whose skin color is different.

I pray that by continuing these conversations, we are serving God by giving voice to the voiceless and holding a mirror to ourselves.

What Can I Do?

*by Nan Treul
Stephen Ministry*

Many of us have read the words that St. Paul's is a Stephen Ministry congregation, but don't spend much time reflecting on what this means to us personally.

I became a Stephen Minister twelve years ago in Grand Rapids, Michigan. My first care receiver was a young woman in our congregation who had recently been divorced. She had two young teenagers, and worked full-time, and she did not have time to meet away from her home. So we began a Telecare Ministry. She chose a night of the week that worked best for her, and we talked on the phone every week on that night. It worked well for me, too, because I had a

job that required traveling, so I could call her from whatever city I was visiting.



We connected on the phone in this way for almost a year. We developed a close relationship. I did not solve her problems; I primarily listened and asked questions to draw her out or make her think of another aspect of her situation. At the end of our time together, we met for a walk, and immediately were at ease because we both

knew each other so well. She was more comfortable with the changes in her life, and ready to discontinue our weekly calls.

This past spring, on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, we talked on the phone again. My care receiver's children are now grown and graduated from college. Yes, she has faced new and additional challenges in the intervening years, but she has not requested another Stephen Minister. And we have remained friends. We talked comfortably, although I now live in a different state, and we both are members of different churches.

We Stephen Ministers of St. Paul's recently tweaked our mission statement to read, "No one in our church community needs to go through life's struggles along." This means that if a person would like to work with a Stephen Minister, we are ready to walk with that person.

What can YOU do to play a role in this lay ministry? There are three things that you can do:

1. If you know a person in our congregation who is struggling with a challenge (think illness, a death, loss of employment, a divorce, loneliness), you can refer that person to Pastor Scott or Judy Kraska, one of our Stephen Minister leaders.
2. You can pray about and consider becoming a Stephen Minister. We are planning on conducting a training class for Stephen Ministers in January, and we would love to learn that you are interested in this way of serving.
3. You can pray for our existing Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. We don't publicize who has a Stephen Minister, so you will not know who has one. But several of our congregation's Stephen Ministers have two care receivers, and several have served for multiple years. Your prayers are appreciated!

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the families and friends of these individuals who have died recently:

- † **Jan Hooft**, who died on Friday, August 9.
Services were held on Monday, Aug 12 at 1 pm at the Rich and Thompson Chapel in Burlington with Pastor Scott Anderson presiding. Memorials may be given to St. Paul's in Jan's memory.
- † Linda Lowe, cousin of Sherry Stubbs who died Aug 1
- † Don Dahl, brother of Gary Dahl, who died suddenly on Aug 4 in Iowa
- † Larry Cooper, father-in-law of Bonnie Cooper who died Aug 6 in Pennsylvania
- † family member of Alta Lyndsay who died in Winston-Salem Aug 6
- † Charles Buckner, father of Angela Maine and grandfather of Jonathan Maine. He died in Morganton, NC
- † **Dorothy Kerns (Dot) Costa**, the longest time member of St. Paul's, who died on Wed, Aug 21. Her memorial service was held at St. Paul's on Saturday, Aug 24 at 3 pm. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Memorial Fund.

Memorials Received



We thank the following persons who have given memorial gifts to St. Paul's in memory of the designated person.

In memory of Bill Anderson

Susan Esposito, Durham
Katherine Trexler, Durham

In memory of Nancy Clendaniel

Susan Esposito, Durham
Katherine Trexler, Durham
To the Stephen Ministry fund by Nancy Treul,
Chapel Hill
Anthony and Penni Perrotte, Durham

In memory of Dorothy Costa

Carol C. Brinkley, Durham
Virgil A. Holshouser, Durham
Elaine Early Myers, Ahoskie NC

In memory of Jan Hooft

Nadine S. Fuqua, Burlington NC

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

On Sunday, August 25, we welcomed into the family of St. Paul's by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, **Abigail Lillian Slane**, daughter of Heather and Sean Slane. Abigail was born on April 8, 2019. Sponsors are Robin Cunningham and Nathaniel Wagner. Abigail's sisters are Margaret and Katherine.



Girl Scout Silver Award

Anastasia Smith, daughter of Angela Zielaskowski, is a Cadette in Troop 1948 in southern Durham and is working on her Silver Award. She is making cat beds and toys for a local rescue (Independent Animal Rescue). Along with the crafts, she is also doing drives to collect cat food and any new toys, beds or leashes possible. There is a collection box by the main door if you would like to help her collection for the kitties. The box will be there through the month of September.



Social Ministry Notes

by Pat Casper

Again the congregation was so very generous in its donation of \$1,775 which made it possible to supply 10 weeks for a health care clinic, support 5 households to restart life after a disaster, and some farm tools.

In the fall we hope there will be the opportunity to glean in the sweet potato fields of North Carolina. More information will be forthcoming as available.

Looking for someone to organize the SERRV Advent Sale. Speak with Pat Casper if interested.

Did you know that there is a book fairy among us? She's Diana Dominick. Diana gives a home to the books in the hallway that need somewhere to go. Talk to her about where she finds their new home.

God's work. Our hands.

Ordination Service

Would you like to view the Ordination Service for Adam Schultz? You can – go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y9fo6y9rUs&fbclid=IwAR38E4LA_sOzA33cXS3B-yn4tt4kuPNwv9VzbOBSokogymKNMqREcht_t0

This is a video of the complete service but you can watch it in its entirety or search for sections. It took place on August 17 in Knoxville, TN.

God's Work – Our Hands
Saturday, September 14, 2019
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

In Concert – Mary D. Williams

5 pm Sunday, September 8, 2019

Church of the Holy Family, 200 Hayes Rd, Chapel Hill

Mary D. Williams is an instructor at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies. This concert is free and all are welcome.



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Spanish Lessons

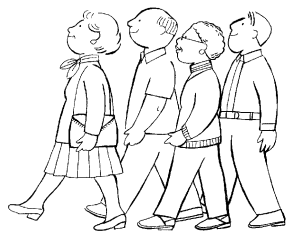
Beginning on Tuesday, September 3 at 12 - 1 pm, Kathy Daniels will be providing an opportunity for our members to learn conversational Spanish. The class will meet weekly in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Casper.

Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, September 10 at 10:00 am in Trinity Hall. We will be assembling lunches for Urban Ministries of Durham, and finalizing programs for the rest of the calendar year. Martha Dahl and Jennifer Bowling are providing refreshments. All women are welcome!

Young In Spirit Is BACK!

The Young In Spirit will come together again this September after enjoying an unscheduled summer. The first event will be "Bring your own Lunch" and planning session on Wednesday, September 11 at 11:30 am in Trinity Hall. Come join a great group of people each month as we enjoy the fellowship.



Calling All Seniors!

Prayer Partners

The Prayer Partner ministry will come together on Saturday, September 21 at 9:30-11:00 am in Trinity Hall. There will be a continental breakfast, a special speaker and then the REVEAL of who has been praying for us all year. The morning will conclude with a drawing for a new prayer partner. ALL are welcome to be a part of this opportunity to have one person praying for you all year long!



St. Paul's Readers

All are welcome to discuss Inspired, by Rachel Held Evans, on Thursday, September 19 at 3:00 pm in the library. Selection for October is Peace Like a River, by Leif Enger.

Wednesday Night Suppers

We are back to two meals this month – September 4 and 18. The Sept 4th menu will be our traditional back-to-school "Reading, Writing, and Ravioli," providing cheese ravioli, sauce, and meatballs (all served separately), salad, garlic toast and desserts. Menu for September 18 is still not complete but put both dates on your calendar. Bring along a friend or two. If you have not attended a Wednesday night supper – consider this a written invitation to do so. Take a night off from cooking and join us for good fellowship with others.