# Cross Connec ions

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

November 2016

# THREE DIFFERENT MEALS THIS MONTH:

**Wed, Nov 2 at 6 pm** is our regular First Wednesday of the month fellowship supper. Menu is "South of the Border." (Meaning, tacos, etc. - more details to come!)

## Wed, Nov 16 is a MIXED-UP Dinner!

A new small group is exploring ways we can continue recent Sunday School class conversations about race, reconciliation, inclusitivity, and new connections. Under Vicar Sue's leadership, we are hosting a MIXED-UP meal on Nov. 16, where you'll draw a number for your table; you may end up sitting with someone you haven't talked with before. We hope that lively conversations will ensue! As part of the "journey" there will be dishes from around the world: Hispanic, African, Indian, Scandinavian. The more diversity, the better! Come and explore with us!

# Thanksgiving Dinner (Thurs, Nov 24)

Would you be interested in sharing a Thanksgiving meal with a small group of St. Paulers? If so, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. We'd gather at the House Next Door (the Pickett Rd House) to share the day with each other. Roast turkey, dressing, and gravy and a dessert would be provided; a small donation would be collected to cover costs for these. Other side dishes would be pot-luck. We're thinking about a family-style gathering for 15 to 20 people, and are exploring whether there's enough interest to make this a "go." Some help setting up and cleaning up would be needed and appreciated. This would be a "late lunch" – about 2:00 pm. Let us know if you'd like to share this day and join us in giving thanks.

Doug & Fran Whitfield, Betty Hinshaw

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Susan B. Holland, Vicar

Rev. Laura Wind, Duke Campus Pastor

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

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#### From the Pastor...

I can't believe October is almost over. This has been one very busy month.

Special thanks to all who worked so hard for the life of faith during this month. It began as September ended with food drives and attention to the needs of the hungry. This is always a special emphasis for us, but we have done very well with over 1000 lbs. of food collected for Urban Ministries and lots of food collected during Oktoberfest.

The Yard sale was a grand success and we will be able to provide a tractor trailer full of mulch for Camp Agape, a new convection oven for our kitchen, support for several of the NC Synod ministries and of course our Cub Scouts.

The results of the Pumpkin Patch are not in yet, but we are praying for this sale which supports many unfunded activities here at St. Paul's. Most of these relate to our children, youth and young adults.

One other joy that began at the end of September was the beginning of the Hispanic/Latino Lutheran Mission start in Durham. Many of our members began working with a team from the Synod, led by Synod staff member John Mocko, sometime last year. Our hope was that we would be able to begin reaching the Hispanic/Latino community with the message of hope and grace that is the message of the ELCA. The good news is that with the help of the people of St. Paul's, this ministry has begun. German and Clara Santana have moved to Durham and begun the congregation of: Arbol da Vida or Tree of Life. The faithful of that congregation will gather at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Duke Street. Our congregation is the financial agent for this effort, handling the payroll for German. Thanks to all who participated in this effort and we will keep you informed of the progress of this ministry. Currently, German is teaching English as a second language and teaching a weekly Bible study in Spanish at Our Savior.

You may have noticed some changes in the hallway, atrium, and foyer during the past few weeks. This is our living room, and welcoming space. The old welcome station has now become the place for fruit, vegetables and eggs. Supplies are stored behind it on the shelves and the bounty of our members will be on display when available. A new cabinet has been secured with memorial funds and is permanently under the tv. We have moved bulletin boards around and community information is now in the hall leading to the elevator. Sign-up sheets and information related to congregational activities is on the board outside the reception office. In the coming days a new reception

desk will arrive (an approved extra budget purchase). This will be placed where the small table and phone currently sits outside the hall to the staff offices. It will offer increased security and allow us to better help visitors.

Also, you may have noticed a change in altar flowers. Our member, Warren Pusak has offered to supply our flowers. His firm is: Creative Flowers and Interiors. They are providing the flowers at the same cost as our previous florist but are able to provide us with a significant difference in quality and quantity for the same price. Thank you Warren and Creative Flowers and Interiors.

We are able to do all this because of the generosity of this community.

In the coming days we will be collecting water and money for hurricane relief in Eastern North Carolina

We look forward to a future of service and joy as we approach Advent.

God's peace, Pastor Scott

## **Sharing Abundantly 2017**

Sharing Abundantly is the theme of our fall Stewardship appeal. This theme reflects a feeling of abundance that we share because of all that God has done for us ...



Sharing Abundantly

individually and as a congregation family. Out of our thankfulness comes the desire to share our gifts of time, talents, and dollars to further the ministries of St. Paul's.

Thank you for your **strong and faithful support**. Our gifts to St. Paul's Lutheran Church make a real difference in so many lives in Jesus' name. We believe, with the apostle Paul, that there is a power at work within us, as God's people, to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or even imagine.

Now to him, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:18-20

We are a **caring** people, offering healing, comfort, and hope to people from all walks of life. We are **generous**. We are grateful for the blessings that the

Lord has given us, and we seek ways to reach out to our neighbors wherever they are. We are **welcoming**. We enjoy meeting new people who visit – whether on Sunday morning or one of our numerous other activities during the week. We are **growing**. We welcome new members frequently and enjoy new ideas that shape new directions for our outreach into our neighborhood and our world. We are **centered** in the Gospel. We have many opportunities to worship, learn about, and serve Jesus.

Now we have new challenges and exciting new opportunities. We have experienced growth, and we have even greater prospects ahead ... new spaces, new ministries to explore. As we chart our course for continued service, as well as future ministries, we need the support of our entire St. Paul's family.

Listen to what some of our members have said when thinking about our Stewardship appeal this year:

The people of St. Paul's have always risen to challenges. When there is a need in our congregation or community, people joyfully give to meet the need.

There is an aura about this place ... God is in this place. God is everywhere, but here it's magnified and intense.

When you give of yourself to the Church, it's not works, but rather it's a passion to want to give, and it's giving in hopes that other people find what I have found here.

You will hear and see more during November. What can you do? Would you please ...

- Pray for our 2017 appeal
- Consider your commitment for next year so that you can respond generously
- Fill out a Statement of Intent and return it to church on Consecration Sunday, November 13
- Bring or mail your pledge to arrive by that date if you won't be at church on November 13

Our goal is to have 100% participation this year, and hope that everyone completes a Statement of Intent (pledge card). If you have never returned a Statement of Intent before, would you please consider doing it this year?

Between now and Consecration Sunday, November 13, **please pray for God's work** in the St. Paul's faith community and within your own lives as you discern your own participation in support of St. Paul's ministries.

#### **Home Sweet Home**



It is hard to believe that it is November already and I have been here for almost three months. I remember walking through the doors on the first day and feeling like a stranger. Now though, after only three short months, I walk through those doors and I feel at home. This feeling of being at home crept up on

me slowly and without me really realizing it until one day, I just did.

Frederick Buechner, in a sermon called, "The Longing for Home," wrote, "The word home summons up a place ... where you feel ... at home, which is to say where you feel you belong and that in some sense belongs to you, a place where you feel that all is somehow ultimately well even if things aren't going all that well at any moment." Looking back on my first three months here, I think the ways Buechner uses the word "belong" expresses my experience of my growing sense of home. On one hand, he describes belonging to the community: there is a warm welcome that opens up a space of acceptance so you can enter as yourself and have a place in the community where your presence can impact and enrich the life of the community. On the other hand, he talks about the community belonging to you: there is a sense that as your community, the community will be there to support you and walk with you. Here at St. Paul's over the last three months, I have experienced both, being welcomed and having my gifts received as well as a tremendous outpouring of love and support. It's feeling like

I think our new welcome statement extends an invitation to all people to find such a home at St. Paul's. The new statement appears on our website and is printed in our bulletins and it reads,

"In celebrating the beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, appearance, or citizenship."

'Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.' 1 Corinthians 12:12"

The words *welcome*, *value* and *include* seem to me to capture the fullness of the idea of *home*; a place where you belong and that belongs to you. I think the concept of *home* can be very useful as we continue to explore what it means to live in community and also as we welcome new folks. I encourage you to

take a few minutes sometime this week to reflect on what the concept of home means to you and how you think it might apply to our life together.

Vicar Sue

#### **Duke Lutherans News**

On my desk, I have a picture of my adopted son, Jonathan. Jonathan was one of the Lutheran Campus Ministry students at Wake Forest, and we have managed to stay in touch through the years – a Masters degree for him, a stint teaching and doing research at Harvard Business School, and now a recent return to New York City. We both enjoy writing letters, and we have decided that we are going to try to revive the art of letter writing. I am thankful for my years of relationship with Jonathan. This relationship would not have happened if I had not had the good privilege to serve at Wake Forest University.

THE LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT DUKE UNIVERSITY LUTHERANS

Here at Duke I am amazed at the vast resources and the amazing young people

with whom I get to interact. When people ask me what I like about my job, my first response is always, "I love my students." My second response is "It's great to be able to worship and work with the good people of St. Paul's and to be in partnership with Grace Lutheran Church." So much rich blessing comes from this fertile soil, and I am truly excited about where we will be heading in the future.

Our new Bible Study for Graduate Students Wine and Word is growing. You'll often find me in the kitchen on Tuesday afternoons cooking for the students (another of my favorite things to do.) We gather at Grace House and wrestle with the text, and break bread together, and Jesus is there in the midst of us, and we are nourished and strengthened. I am inspired and encouraged by the students' passion and enthusiasm for the gospel and the ways they concretely live out their faith.

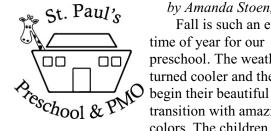
On Sunday evenings we gather at the York Room. We read scripture, worship, break bread together, share a meal, pray for each other and the university and the world. My life is richer because of my time of worship with the students. Although we are heading into the last half of this first semester, exciting opportunities are on the horizon. Duke Lutherans is talking with the Campus Ministry at Chapel Hill, and the odds are good that we will be able to travel with them this March during Spring Break to walk in the footsteps of Luther in the 500th year that we will celebrate the Reformation.

So, I ask you to continue to hold us in prayer as we plan and serve and worship and to reach out to the students who will soon be facing exams and the end of the first semester. I thank the Women's Connection for providing Halloween Goody Bags, and all of you who have provided meals for the Sunday evening worship.

Campus Ministry can make a tremendous difference in the lives of students, in the communal lives of congregations. It provides an opportunity for young adults to connect with their faith, to live in community, to wrestle with their callings, to engage issues of justice, and hunger, and reconciliation. As always, thank you for your generous support. It truly does make a difference.

> God's peace, Pastor Laura

#### Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen, Director Fall is such an exciting time of year for our preschool. The weather has turned cooler and the leaves transition with amazing colors. The children have

been learning about this season of change and everything that comes with it: pumpkins, apples, colorful leaves and of course Halloween. The classes each visited the Pumpkin Patch and explored all of the different sizes and shapes of pumpkins. We also had a visit from the local fire department during our fire safety week!

In October, our St. Paul's Gives Back service project benefitted our local police and fire departments. The preschoolers made thank you cards and collected stuffed animals that the fire department can give to children after tragedies. In November, we will be collecting non-perishable foods and canned goods for urban Ministries.

In October, the preschool staff attended the annual Durham Orange Preschool Association's fall conference. The presentations included information on learning and play centers, fine motor skills and building a creative toolbox for children. The teachers learned so much about these topics and are excited to bring new ideas into the classroom (and outside too). Thank you for supporting the preschool!

# Youth Group News

Next Gen Youth Group (3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Graders) 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders! Come to the monthly meetings of Next Gen Youth Group for fun, fellowship and service. Email Vicar Sue at <u>vicar@stpaulsdurham.org</u> to receive emails about Next Gen activities or for more information.

#### YOUTHQUAKE! Saturday, Nov 12

(Register by Nov 2)

In November, we are going to the synod-led YOUTHQUAKE youth gathering being held at St. Philip in Raleigh. YOUTHQUAKE is on November 12 but you need to register with Vicar Sue by Nov 2! (Registration is \$20) We will meet at St. Paul's at 9 AM and road trip together over to Raleigh returning around 4:30 pm. See the Youth Ministry bulletin board for details and registration forms.

#### **Future Next Gen Events**

- ► Saturday, Dec 10 time tbd Christmas Angels
- Sunday, Jan 15 − 12:30-3 − "Souper" Bowl Sunday
- Sunday, Feb 19 12:30-3 Bowling
- ► Sunday, Mar 19 12:30-3 Casserole Cook-Off
- Friday-Sunday, Apr 21-23 BYG at Camp Agape (Register NOW! – see Vicar)
- ► Sunday, May 21 12:30-3 Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)

Middle School / High School Youth Group Lock-In! Friday-Saturday, Nov 18-19, 5 PM to 10 AM Taco dinner, games, fire pit, movie and more. Sign-up on the MS/HS Youth group bulletin board. Bring a friend if you like. Completed Medical Release and General Permission Form required. Find these on

#### the

Youth Group bulletin board or see Vicar Sue.

#### Future MS/HS Youth Group Events

- Saturday, Dec 10 time tbd Christmas Angels
- ► Sunday, Jan 8 12:30-3 Ga-Ga Ball Pit Construction
- Friday-Saturday, Feb 24-25 leave 5 PM Friday, return late Saturday – Ski Trip!
- Sunday, Mar 26 time tbd Dinner and worship with Duke Lutherans
- Sunday, Apr 30 Rehearsal for Youth Sunday (May 7)
- ► Sunday, May 21 12:30-3 Youth Group Season Finale Cookout (Family event)

Email Vicar Sue at <u>vicar@stpaulsdurham.org</u> to receive MS/HS Youth emails and get access to our Google Calendar.

#### MS / HS Sunday School

Meet in the Morgan Memorial Youth Room (downstairs off of Genesis Hall) at 9:45 am.

- Nov 6, 13, and 20 SERRV set up and sales
- Nov 27 NO Sunday School Happy Thanksgiving
- ► Dec 4 Video Project Kick-off

Email Vicar Sue at <a href="vicar@stpaulsdurham.org">vicar@stpaulsdurham.org</a> to receive MS/HS Youth emails and get access to our Google Calendar.

#### **WELCA Katherine Circle**

The Katherine Circle will meet on Tuesday, Nov 15 at 10:00 am. Devotions will be led by Martha Dahl. Marilyn Hawley will share her experience in Fiji with Habitat For Humanity. Hostesses will be Jennifer Bowling and Lois Kinzie. November is Thank Offering month. Election of officers will be held. All women of the church are invited to attend.

# Saints of the Month

We collect nominations for Saints of the Month in the box on the usher's table in the fover.

- Nancy Anderson for keeping the gardens so beautiful, especially during the hot summer
- Council, Finance, and Paschall Committees for hard work, long hours, and innovative ideas to move forward on Paschall property.
- Jim Shoaf for organizing the Race and Reconciliation Sunday School sessions.

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## **Refugee Sunday**

by Marilyn Bell Hawley

"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me in..."

St. Paul's will join many other congregations throughout the ELCA and our Synod by setting aside one Sunday during the year to celebrate Refugee Sunday. We will celebratE during our Sunday School hour on Sunday, November 20, 2016, and invite you to join us and hear first hand about our own congregation's legacy of service.

A presentation and information about how we as Lutherans serve our fellow families from around the world will be provided by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and staff from Lutheran Services Carolina's Refugee Resettlement program. Lutheran Services Carolina's Refugee Resettlement program is a ministry of hope for those who have suffered religious, social, or political persecution in their homelands. We welcome you to this event.

## **Fowler Library Update**

We are happy to report that the Fowler Library catalog is up and running again thanks to Curtis Chi's hard work! That means you can now come to the

library and search for books and other materials by subject, author, and title. If you would like help finding an item in the library, please let us know and we would be happy to show you how the catalog works and help you find what you are looking for! We will also be hard at work



adding to the library catalog all the books that have generously been donated over the lat few months. We're looking forward to providing you with access to a wealth of new (to us!) books!

The library has a bounty of fall-themed books! Check out the Fowler Library bookmobile (our book cart) before and after the 11 am church services in November to see what autumn and Thanksgiving books we have! There are fun books for kids and for adults including a crafts book and books about the Pilgrims. Happy reading and happy Thanksgiving from you Fowler Librarians!

Brenda Linares and Emily Vardell

# **Enviro-Venture on November 5**<sup>th</sup>!

Camp Agape is busy getting everything ready for Enviro-Venture on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>! We hope you will be coming with friends and family of all ages for this fun event!

If you want to see the pumpkin trebuchet progress, check the website. It's pretty cool! Our engineers have discovered that this spectacle is going to take more time per launch than anticipated. We'll have time to fling about 50 pumpkins. Thus, since this is a fund-raiser, the joy of flinging a pumpkin will be \$5 per pumpkin.

The registration form is online at <a href="https://www.agapekurebeach.org">www.agapekurebeach.org</a> and <a href="https://www.agapecenterforee.org">www.agapecenterforee.org</a>.

Come and enjoy:

- ▶ Hike-a-Thon
- ► Basket Raffle (\$1 per ticket)
- Nature Specialists
- ► Chili Cook-off
- ► Face-painting
- Kids' Carnival
- Live Music
- Pumpkin Trebuchet (\$5 pumpkin)
- Zip line (limited availability tickets by the ½ hour)

## In the mailbag...

A big thank you to St. Paul's members and friends for all the cards, thoughts, conversations, prayers, and those who took on tasks of altar guild and communion assistant when I had to go to Georgia to be with my sister and family. It has been a comfort to know how much this community is supporting me and my family in the midst of these very trying times for us.

Pat Casper

A big thank you to everyone at St. Paul's for the generous "pounding" you gave us last month! We truly appreciate the gift cards as well as all the love and support you have shown both of us since our arrivals. It is such a blessing to be partners in ministry with you all.

Vicar Sue and Pastor Laura

\* \* :

A Big THANK YOU to the students and teachers of the preschool and PMO for the wonderful cards they created for my mother, Addie Felkel recently, while she was recovering from her fall in July. These are all the more special too because Mom is a retired elementary school teacher – and also elementary school art teacher!

Mary Sturgeon

\* \* \*

On behalf of Durham Habitat and all of our homeowners, including the Bumphus family, thank you. Thank you for helping build homes, hope and community in Durham.

Karla Bumphus said, "I was 11 years old and didn't know my address. Because we moved around so much, I made no attempts to learn addresses." Karla and her husband, Bernard, wanted something different for their children. They built and purchased their Habitat home in 2012. "My children get to experience that sense of belonging that I always longed for," Karla said. "Bryson and Bryleigh know their address."

With support from partners like you, Durham Habitat has built and sold nearly 336 homes since 1985. That means more than 850 Durham children are growing up with brighter futures.

Thank you for supporting our mission through giving and monthly builds!

Roxanne Little, Director of Advancement

Dear quilting friends,

Thank you so very much for your generous donations of the quilts for our babies. We love having beautiful, personal items we can provide our babies and their families.

We will use these quilts as colorful blankets on our cribs and also as covers on our incubators. They will serve to help the baby mature developmentally as well as add some much needed color and cheer.

Thank you again for sharing your beautiful creations with us!

Sarah Haithcock Duke Intensive Care Nursery

#### **Memorial Received**

We have received a memorial in memory of Lou Bauer by Timothy and Kimberly Hoke, Chapel Hill.

#### **Talent Abounds!**

# Sunday, Nov 6 at 3:00 pm - Bull City Baroque

This is a new Early Music group including Allison Willet on violin, Robbie Link on gamba, and Jacqueline Nappi on harpsichord. All are invited.

# Saturday, Nov 12 at 6:30 pm - Lutherans Got Talent!

Back for the 4<sup>th</sup> year - performers of all ages and skills will take the stage in Trinity Hall. Don't be shy – you can still participate in this talent show. Contact Amanda Anderson. Fun event for the whole family. Bring a potluck dessert to share at 6:30, talent show begins at 7:00 pm. You are invited to bring your visual arts as well.

## Prayers of Sympathy...

to the family of Rev. Ralph Hoke, friend of Chris and Amanda Stoen, who died Sept 29 in Michigan

# Congratulations!

We welcome Tatiana Jayde Cuthbertson, daughter of Rachael Giehl and Lavaurs Cuthbertson. Tatiana weighed 10 lbs 2 oz, born on Tuesday, October 18 in Graham, NC. Grandparents are Ann and Dan Giehl.



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

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#### **Alternative Gift Fair**

St. Paul's Annual Alternative Gift Fair is coming to you this November! Support extraordinary artisans from around the world AND find beautiful, one-of-akind gifts for your family and friends. Last year St. Paul's met our sales goal by purchasing \$1,700 in fair trade products. This year we hope to reach a goal of \$2,000. Ten percent of total proceeds will be donated to Lutheran Services Carolina's Refugee Services. Cash and check will be accepted. Find the Youth Group hosting the fair in the foyer on the following dates:

Sunday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am - 1:00 pm Wednesday, Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00-7:00 pm Sunday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am - 3:00 pm (or until the picnic ends)

For more information on featured artisans, visit www.serrv.org

For more information on the St. Paul's Alternative Gift Fair, contact Becca Brandt at <a href="mailto:rhopebrandt@gmail.com">rhopebrandt@gmail.com</a>

# Old Fashioned Church Picnic Sunday, November 20

Please join in fun and fellowship on Sunday, November 20 at 1:00 pm for an old fashioned church potluck picnic as we celebrate the purchase of the adjoining (Paschall) property. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, dessert and table service will be provided as we picnic on the property. Please bring a salad or side dish for potluck. You will also be able to tour the property. Sign up on the Reservations board outside the Reception office.

#### **Name That Property!**

This contest will kick off on Wednesday, November 2. Please get your creative thinking going and submit your entry to the contest to give a "St. Paul's" name to the adjoining property.

## **Young In Spirit**

#### Historic Russell School 2001 Saint Mary Road, Hillsborough Wednesday, Nov 9 at 11:00 am

Come join us for viewing a vital part of Durham's history – historic Russell School. During the time of segregation in the rural south, black children were denied access to formal education. To bring education to these children, countless individuals worked together to build Rosenwald Schools, named for Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist and president of Sears and Roebuck. Grants were given to build schools throughout the south. Russell School was named for one of the major neighborhood supporters, Thomas Russell. The school was built in 1926 and continued educating children until its closure in 1945. Hundreds of children were educated, bringing to fruition the vision and dedication of those who believed that high-quality education should be available to everyone.

We will meet at the site for a tour and then travel to Tripps Restaurant for lunch. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the reception office.

## **Trinity Kitchen Class**

The second Trinity Hall Kitchen Training Class will be held on Saturday, Nov 12. This class will cover the basics of using our commercial kitchen safely: cooking, cleaning, and washing dishes. You also will get a notebook at this class which will be very useful when you are using the kitchen in the future. The class will start promptly at 9 am and last until 1 pm. We will make and eat lunch as part of the class. Class size is limited to a maximum of 6 adult students. Sign-up is on the board at church near the receptionist's office.

#### **Adult Sunday School Class**

Nov. 13 – Brian Schmidt – Bach and his theology Nov 20 - Refugee Resettlement Join the discussions in Whitesell Hall, 9:45-10:45 am each Sunday.