

CROSS CONNEC IONS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 2024

Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God and in honor of Katie Elkin and Jordan Ziehr who were united in marriage on 8/24/24, by Amy, Bill & Lily Elkin.

If you would like to make a recognition through the altar flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium for a form in the lower box. Sign-up for the day(s) you would like and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin. Payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, please speak to a staff person.

Growing Thru Grief

Offers grief support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Meetings are at 4-6PM, all are welcome.

August Schedule

August 27 "Mediators of Mourning," with Lindsay Gallo

PASTA for PARKTOWN!

Help Stock St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

Donate boxes of dry pasta to the bin beneath the bulletin board in the Atrium. These boxes are given to hungry families at the Parktown area by the Food Hub. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative and it is accomplished through your generosity.

Lunch with "You Can Vote!"

On August 25, 2024, the Social Ministry committee will host a Lunch & Learn event about the 2024 election. Following 11:00 am worship, we'll serve a light lunch before hearing a short presentation by Kate Fellman, head of the Durham chapter of YouCanVote (YCV). This non-partisan, volunteer organization works to educate and enable all citizens to vote. Ms. Fellman will talk with us about voter registration, voter outreach, and election information. She'll describe YCV's well-organized on-line training. To quote from their website *"We train and mobilize volunteers to effectively share information about upcoming elections, help voters to register and understand their rights, and remind voters when and where to cast their ballot."*

-- Bee Ellertson, Joan Pepper, and Steve Mzyk

The Women of the ELCA is offering some information to consider this election year.

As we prepare for this election year it is good to think about our role in politics. If you are interested please go to this link: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Calledtobepolitical.pdf>

Worship Notes

We will continue using "Now the Feast and Celebration" setting until September 15. On September 15 we will switch back to Setting One in the ELW

Pastor's Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark

will resume on Thursday Mornings at 10:30am, August 22, 2024.

The study will resume with Chapter 10. Notes will be emailed a few days prior to the 22nd.

Same Joy, different last name. Just a note that Office Assistant Joy Webster is now Joy Perdue.

August Wednesday Night Supper: August 28 at 6pm

Join us for a **“Summer Sandwich and Salad Spread”** for Supper. Just bring yourself (and someone else if you like!) for a buffet of sandwich fixings and salads... and of course, dessert! If you are available to help with clean-up, it will be needed. Hope to see you there!

Youth Group Events:

Youth Group Sunday School starts back up on **September 15th** from **9:45-10:30am** and will meet downstairs in the youth room. ALL youth that are confirmed this fall are required to be at every class from Sept 15th - Oct 27th. Please talk with Joan directly ahead of time if you youth will not be at a class.

This year's activities, dinner with congregation, and service participation will be discussed during one of these Sundays so youth are encouraged to come with ideas about what they want out of this year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joan Albright at joan.albright@duke.edu

- **Rally Day Table Set-up & Table Participation** - Need at least **2 youth** (ALL are encouraged to come anytime between 9am and 2pm to set up the table as well as represent the youth). Please have your youth coordinate with each other via the group text chat as to when everyone will meet up in Trinity Hall for set-up.
- **Youth Gathering Bulletin Board** - **ALL youth** that went to New Orleans will need to work together to set-up the bulletin board with pictures and descriptions of our trip. Pictures will already be printed, so please have the youth coordinate with Joan about when and how the bulletin board will be put together.
- **Youth Group Post Gathering Dinner with Congregation** - **ALL youth** from New Orleans trip will be required to attend and participate at the Wednesday night supper on Sept. 18th. This will be a chance to talk to members of the congregation about the trip and their favorite things. Youth will need to work together to create a slideshow (PowerPoint) to show pictures so that discussion can be prompted while the pictures are up on the screen.

We look forward to the continued opportunities this school year brings to grow with your youth in their faith journeys.

Many Blessings, Youth Group Leadership Team.

From the Preschool

It's that time of year to re-link your VIC Card to the pre-school! Linked VIC Cards allow the preschool to receive a percentage of your sales from Harris Teeter. Our number is **3049** and can be linked at any Harris Teeter or online. Friends and family may link too!

Attention, calling all potential children's Sunday school teachers.

This will be our last year as lead Sunday school teachers (September 2024-May 2025). To ensure the future of children's Sunday school and a smooth transition, we would like some interested volunteers to assist this year. Come get acquainted with the youngest members of St. Paul's and see what Sunday School is all about. It's time for some fresh teachers with fresh ideas to shepherd the little ones.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this vital ministry of the church you can contact Betty Hinshaw and Carole Ostrowski for more information.

In Need of People to Lead Session(s) for Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School sessions start back up on Sunday, September 15th. We are looking for people excited to lead a session or 2 on our series “Dwelling in the Word” where we will be taking a biblical dive into how certain faithful words can be understood. If you would like to lead, please reach out directly to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com

Dropped Stich: On Break Until September

In Need of People August 24th to help spread mulch in the playground.

9AM-11PM Bring a garden rake, work gloves, pitchfork and wheelbarrow if you have them.

Jewelry Making

Joyce Veazey is offering an opportunity to learn jewelry making! Just bring yourself, If you are interested, contact Joyce to set up a time meet with her. Please refer to the church directory for contact info.

Working Adult Group Upcoming Events

- **“Dancing in Lughnasa”** St. Paul’s very own Amanda Anderson will be starring in “Dancing in Lughnasa”! The show runs Sept. 19th - 29th at the Firebox Theater in Wake Forest. Tickets are on sale now at <https://fireboxtheatre.com/> *Tickets are general admission and seats only 65 people, so get your tickets fast. If going as a group would be preferred, please let me know and I can get you in contact with anyone else that would be interested.*
- **Fall Fest: Pumpkin carving with goats at Spring Haven Farms in Chapel Hill** Sept 21st 10-12pm
Location: 5306 Homer Ruffin Road, Chapel Hill NC 27516 **Cost:** \$14.95 + tax (ages 4+)/person & \$8-\$16/pumpkin per size (small, medium, or large). You can either venmo/zelle Megan Cunningham for tickets or visit this link to purchase yourself: <https://www.springhavenfarm.com/copy-of-events-1>

Please consider contributing to our morning devotions.

Devotions: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send devotions to vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Sign-up Genius Links

Please consider volunteering to assist in worship. Click the link to sign-up.

Sunday Worship: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1#/>

Available Opportunities: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistant, and usher.

UMD Volunteer Update

Amanda Anderson

Moving forward, we're back to the original time frame, 11:30-1:30 pm. We'll help with meal prep before serving lunch just as we did previously, **only four volunteers are needed.** To accommodate our monthly Habitat for Humanity volunteer shift, I changed the UMD shift to the fourth Saturday of the month starting in September.

Volunteers MUST sign up online to participate. You can Sign up here:

https://bit.ly/UMD_Signup

As always, please reach out to me with questions about the logistics of volunteering,

andersona1129@gmail.com . .

Our **Afghan family support team** is so grateful for your generosity in providing diapers for the past several months. The 2 families have a good supply for the time being, so we will let you know when that changes.

We could use help with funding school supplies. Six of the children are already back in school at Hope Valley Elementary, which shifted to a year-round schedule this year. We purchased supplies for them but foresee more expenses ahead when the other 6 return to school (Githens Middle and Jordan High) at the end of August. As always, thank you for your generosity in sharing with these families.

If you would like to contribute, you may do so through the pew envelope in offering plate or send a check to the church office, designating “school supplies for Afghan families”.

PRAYER REQUEST EDITS

To streamline the process and help reduce errors, please visit the following link to add/remove people on the prayer list. <https://forms.gle/28wAjDpzQhEufuXu8>

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of the Church (Members)

Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazy, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Pat Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Anna Snyder, Fran Whitfield, Pat Cashwell, Susan Esposito, Charlie Bock, Amanda Highben., Rick Lischer, Ron Brown, Marilyn Hawley, and Dean Redman.

Prayers of the Church (Friends)

Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner (Tony Perotte's Mother and Uncle), Diane Johnson (Penni Perotte's friend), Tim and Sue Williams (Friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (Sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (Grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (Sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (Mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (Friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki, Stevens, and daughter (Friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (Cousin of Kathy Anderson), Armenia and Artsakh (Friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (Parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (Mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (Brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (Friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (Sister-in-Law of Hudgins), Paul (Son-in-Law of Jan Hunley), Richard Dominick (Brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck and Ruth Parker (Aunt of Pat Casper), Holly Cashwell (Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (Friend of Waughs), George and Pat Rose (Friends of Debbie Fulbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Jack Taylor (Cousin of Dean and Marcia Redman), Debra Jetton (Sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (Niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (Grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Cole Cashwell (Grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (Sister-in-law of Bill and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (By Debbie Fulbright), Scott Duncan (Stepfather of Bill Elkin), Dave and Missy Pepper (Brother and Family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and Family (Husband and Family of Leslie Johnson), Vernice Knudsen (Mother of Ken Knudsen), Olga Niktin (By Patrick Chappel), Joan Mayfield (Aunt of Pat Casper), Vera Wiggins and Tony Jeeter (By Amy Elkin), Wini Robison (Aunt of Megan Cunningham), Harvey Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Jeff Redman (Son of Dean and Marcia Redman), Linda Larson (friend of Marcy and Ron Brown).

Rev. Scott Anderson, Pastor

Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Ashley Bowman, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Joy Perdue, Office Assistant

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Candace King, Preschool Director

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor...

I try and watch Facebook to see what is happening with our congregation members and on our Facebook page here at St. Paul's. This week, I was reminded of a memory. August 6, 2012, I began my call as your pastor. Also, on August 25, 2012 the service of installation was officially held. 12 years seems not so long ago, but also it seems an eternity ago. We have walked together managing debt, dealing with the Paschal property, the Covid Pandemic, changes in staffing, leaky roofs and broken stained glass. We have also walked together through the joys of baptisms, weddings, new life celebrations, serving others in our community, 100 years of ministry in this place and so much more. I rejoice and give thanks for it all.

Now, thanks to you I am going to take a mini sabbatical and enjoy a little time off to refresh and get ready for many years of continued service with you. Many of you have offered to help while I am on sabbatical. Continue to reach out to Vicar Ashley during my time away. I also want to offer a word of special thanks to the pastors that will fill in during my absence. Pastor Amanda Highben, Pastor Jan Huntley, Pastor David Sloop, Pastor Lorrell Strom-Jensen have all agreed to help out on Sundays.

Remember if you need pastoral care please reach out to Vicar Ashley and Pastor Amanda.

You will all be in my prayers.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Thank you so much for the warm welcome to me and my husband, Clark. We are so grateful for all the groceries and gift cards, as well as the hospitality and help getting settled. I feel like after a few weeks I am starting to learn names, and am also grateful that you have name tags on Sundays for when I'm not quite there yet. As I've started participating in group gatherings and visiting with some of you, I've appreciated how I've felt welcomed and supported.

I have been getting settled in and look forward to the year ahead. I got to dive right in my first Sunday by being the assisting minister and preaching. In the months ahead, I'll be preaching more often. Worship here is different from what I'm used to, and I've enjoyed

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getting out of my comfort zone as I learn the way things go at St. Paul's. My third Sunday, though, I was so wrapped up in singing the sending song that I completely forgot that I was supposed to be walking out with the cross. We made it to the back of the sanctuary just in time for the end of the song. (I'm still learning.)

I've already done so many things in the first few weeks, and there's still a lot ahead. I've gotten to meet with my intern committee and join a couple other committee meetings. I participated in the 3 sessions of the series "The Week" with the Care for Creation team. I visited Crossdale for the monthly worship service there. I joined the working adults group for a picnic. By the time I'm writing an article for next month, I will have attended a council meeting, led Bible study, and participated in a community meal - among other things. I most look forward to connecting with people and with small groups to hear your stories and get to know you.

The story in Matthew 14:22-33 about Jesus walking on the water is an important one for me and my call to ministry. Hearing a pastoral intern preach on this passage in 2019 is what pushed me toward the path to seminary - in particular as she spoke about how, in order to follow Jesus, Peter had to get out of the boat. This particular preacher asked the congregation to consider how we could "get out of the boat" to follow Jesus.

As I've read this passage again recently, I am connected to what Jesus says to Peter in verse 27. Our English translation (NRSV) reads, "Take heart; it is I; do not be afraid." My own translation of the Greek reads as "Be courageous/confident. I AM. Fear not." I am carrying these words with me as I "get out of the boat" to follow Jesus at this stage in my call story. The journey to this point has not been easy. On the way to North Carolina, it was almost comical how many things kept going wrong. This Northerner is still adjusting to the heat and the bugs that characterize The South. But in spite of the adversity and the adjustments, I know that I am where I am supposed to be. With every setback, I keep finding that, in one way or another, I am reminded of Jesus' words to Peter. I know God is with me on this journey. I am also confident that if I ever forget or become discouraged, I will not have to look very far to find support and encouragement from this community to help me remember.

Ashley Bowman

Notes from the Preschool Director

This month we welcome our new and returning families to the preschool to start an incredible new school year. We continue offering six classes among our four classrooms, with about 50 children enrolled. Our school year begins on Tuesday, September 3rd! Children attending the preschool range in age from 10 months through four years old. We ask that you pray for us as we begin the school year and continue in our care of God's Children.

We are very fortunate at St. Paul's to have so many outside spaces to use. The preschool staff continues to learn new ways to immerse the children in learning while outside.

Teachers incorporate brain development and learning with math, science, art and language while in these different spaces. Children have more spaces to move their bodies and create a joyful connection to the natural world. They connect their gross and fine motor skills when they scoop, push, pull and pour materials. We welcome and encourage them to get messy!

As you know, the elements take a toll on our outdoor toys. We have an endless wish list of well-loved items that often need to be replaced. Our budget includes purchasing new toys every year, but now that we are into our 4th year post-pandemic, we have discovered that replacements have become more common than ever with the extra time spent outside. [Our Amazon Wishlist can be found here](#) if you'd like to help us keep the playground toys replenished year-round and as always, your donation is tax-deductible.



If you do not have an amazon account, you can also donate money for these supplies through the offering plate.

The teachers and I appreciate all the support you give us!
In Christ,
Candace.



Duke Lutherans Sunday Dinners: A Ministry of Grace

Few things are more important in campus ministry than nourishing students' spirits and bodies. Although they're often too busy and rushed to share in table fellowship over a nutritious, homemade meal, this is precisely what we provide for them on Sunday nights: a shared meal that invites them to slow down, care for their whole selves, and share God's abundant love, just as Jesus did whenever he ate with his disciples.

We invite you to participate in this ministry of grace by helping to serve dinner one night this fall semester. If you've never joined us before, we'd love to have you! You provide the food; we provide everything else (beverages, plates, utensils) and the hungry appetites! We usually have between 15-20 students. Please also provide one main vegetarian dish. The students like fresh fruit and veggies too and LOVE dessert!

Please arrive by 5:15 so that we can help to carry in and unpack the food in time for you to join us for worship. Evening Prayer begins at 5:30, followed by dinner at 6:30. (Tip: crockpot meals are a great choice because they'll help to keep the food warm while we worship.) The Duke Lutherans Center is located on the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church (824 N. Buchanan). Grace's parking lot is located across Green St, but there's also street parking on Green in front of the church.

Available dates are listed at this SignUpGenius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054AABAB2EA4FB6-50776240-duke>

If you have any questions, please contact me at amanda.highben@duke.edu, 612-418-4192.

Thank you so much for sharing in this ministry of God's abundant grace where there is always room at the table for everyone.
Peace, Pastor Amanda



St. Paul's members Amy, Bill, and Lily Elkin serve dinner at the DLC

“Adopt” a Duke Lutheran and Share the Love!

Beloved St. Paul’s member Marilyn Bell once wrote about the Adopt a Duke Lutheran ministry, “Matching students while they’re away from their homes and families with church members is an extension of St. Paul’s mission to share God in Christ with the world and one another through service, support, and learning.”

Indeed. Whenever Marilyn and her husband Larry shared a meal with their “adopted” Duke Lutheran Jovita Byemerwa, or sent her a card, or prayed for her, they also shared God’s love in Christ with her and she with them. For as much as Marilyn and Larry blessed Jovita, she blessed them in return. In Marilyn’s words, “Jovita’s faith throughout her time as a student has been an inspiration to me. Her tenacity and determination have strengthened my own. And I know I am a better person because she is in my life, thanks to the Adopt a Duke Lutheran ministry.”

If God is perhaps calling you to “adopt” a Duke Lutheran, we’d love to hear from you and help match you with an undergraduate or graduate student. We’ve even created a brief survey for church members (and a separate one for students) to connect you with a student with similar interests and time availability. There are also many different ways to care for your adopted student: send emails, cards or a care package; perhaps host them for a meal or treat them to dinner or coffee; and, of course, hold them in prayer.

Our goal this academic year is to match every student who would like to participate with their own Adopt a Duke Lutheran parent(s). Please let us know if you are interested and may God continue to bless this beloved partnership between St. Paul’s and the Duke Lutherans.

Peace,
Pastor Amanda and Ellen Lavery (Duke Lutherans Committee Member for Partner Churches)



Marilyn, Larry, and Laura with their “adopted” Duke Lutheran Jovita

Stephen Ministry at St. Paul’s

Stephen Ministry at St. Paul’s is celebrating its 10 anniversary this year. Over this time St. Paul’s Stephen ministers have helped or are helping over 50 people. Currently, there are 10 trained Stephen Ministers at St. Paul’s – Kim Hoke, Nan Treul, John Foreman, Sally Hart, Phil Hart, Blaise Mercadante, Tracy Lischer, Bee Ellertson, Penni Perotte, and Joan Pepper.

What is Stephen Ministry? It is trained lay people doing one-on-one, distinctively Christian caring ministry to those going through difficult times in life. Examples are death of a loved one, significant medical challenges, problems of aging, divorce, loss of a job, relocating to a new city. Any life situation where a person needs help to get through it.

How do Stephen Ministers help? Stephen Ministers offer a caring, Christ-centered, non-judgmental listening ear so people dealing with grief, pain, loneliness, fear, and sadness can talk through their feelings in a confidential setting. Stephen ministers can’t and don’t “fix” people’s problems, but do offer a caring presence. Most often, simply listening and affirming in a non-judgmental and confidential manner is also a person needs to get through these “rough patches” life has dealt them.

How do I become a Stephen Minister? If you are interested in exploring or becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Scott, Nan Treul, Kim Hoke or John Foreman. All it requires is a caring heart and a willingness to serve others. It does require a period of training to prepare and equip you to become a good Stephen Minister. Every Stephen Minister will tell you that they became a better spouse, friend and person because of the training.

If you know of someone or are experiencing one of life’s difficulties and would like a caring ear talk to about it, again contact Nan Treul, Kim Hoke or John Foreman.

St Paul’s Budget Talks Session with the Finance Folks Sep 22

In Matthew, verse 28:19, it tells us, “Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations.” What it doesn’t say is “Go ye therefore and prepare a budget when the roof leaks and electric rates are rising.”

That’s what John, Angela and the finance team do. As part of this

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year's stewardship program we've invited John to spend a Sunday School hour with us to talk about St Paul's financial picture. He plans to enlighten us on our budget, what's easy and what's hard, and what it takes to close out 2024 in positive territory.

Please plan to be with us in Trinity Hall on Sunday, Sep 22, as we run through the numbers and have a chance to ask questions concerning St Paul's budget.

Your Stewardship Team

We're Revising St Paul's Constitution

Review Session Sep 15

Beginning with the words "We the People," the U.S. Constitution is composed of the Preamble, seven articles, and 27 amendments. The first 10 amendments are known as the Bill of Rights. OK, so how does St Paul's Constitution begin? Better yet, where can you find a copy?

Hello, Steve here. As a member of St Paul's Constitution Revision Team, I wanted you to know that we've just put the finishing touches on some constitution modifications that have taken us over a year to complete. Here's just a sampling of some of the changes; ELCA has sent-down mandatory changes that must be inserted; we've included suggested bylaw updates; our new committee ministry structure creates continuing resolution additions; we've scrutinized every chapter to ensure proper format; and we've scanned every paragraph to create an easier readability. What's needed now is for you to review it and tell us if we've missed something.

During the September 15th Sunday School hour, we'll offer a Constitution Revision presentation. This slideshow is designed to do two things; explain the revisions and educate the audience on what our Constitution actually says.

Copies of both the revised and current constitutions will be made available electronically before the sessions. A limited supply of paper copies will also be available.

Our plan is to give the congregation time to review the revised document, debate suggested changes, if any, then vote to accept the document during our annual meeting in December.

Please plan to attend the session on the third Sunday in September.

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Did I mention that you'll be given a chance to test yourself against some of the rigorous "Word Knowledge, Linguistic, and IQ Questions" Pastor Scott posed to the Revision Team volunteers. He weeded-out hundreds of volunteers, ensuring only those with extraordinary skills were available for this project.

This should be a very interesting and fun Sunday School hour. I hope you plan to attend.

Social Ministry Election

Why are we talking about elections at church?

Last month, the Social Ministry Committee hosted Kate Fellman, Director of the non-partisan group You Can Vote for a Lunch and Learn event. We heard about ways we can get training to be effective volunteers in election outreach: how to assist with voter registration; where to find information about the voter identification requirement, and about the schedules for early voting.

The 2024 election is a focus for the Social Ministry Committee this year. In case anyone is wondering whether "politics" has a place in our community of faith and worship, this column gathers some guidance from the ELCA.

This statement introduces the initiative called "ELCAvotes":

"We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.

We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens."

Back in 2013, the ELCA adopted a resolution for "Voting Rights for All Citizens:

"[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to 'promote public life worthy of the name' by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ..."

We are called to be advocates. We are NOT called to be partisan, nor to represent one candidate over another. We welcome your questions and your insights. That's always true, of course, but it seems especially important to say it in an election season like this one. If you have

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suggestions for ways that we can connect our faith with action, please get in touch with any member of the Social Ministry Committee.

Please check the table in the narthex for general information about the 2024 election. On October 6, we'll be giving a meditation about ethics and elections during the Sunday School hour. Let us know what you think, and look for ways that you can help during this election season.

Bee Ellertson

St. Paul's Readers Resumes September 19 at 3 pm

Calling all book lovers to join us for one or all of our fall meetings! Our September selection is *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard. The 26th President, failing re-election, has an adventure that nearly kills him.

Here is more about this book: A confluence of circumstances, including a South American speaking tour and the eagerness of others to investigate the Amazonian headwaters, brought Teddy, aged 55 and still bold and plucky, to Brazil, then largely unmapped and unknown. When the opportunity came to change a planned route to follow the uncharted course of the ominously named River of Doubt, the former chief executive seized it eagerly. And so, with devoted son Kermit and a band of hard recruits, the party plunged into the fierce, fecund jungle and its unknown dangers. Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks. Group discussion will be led by Phil Strom-Jensen.

Books for the rest of the year are *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman on October 17 and *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood on November 16.

Our meetings are held in Trinity Hall on the third Thursday of most months at 3 pm. It is an informal gathering to talk about our book for the month, led by a facilitator. We try to select books from different genres to stretch our horizons, as well as to appeal to a wide range of people. The reading list for 2025 will be selected in late October; we invite your input.

Please consider joining us. We'd love to see you at our September meeting. For questions or more information, please contact Katherine

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Trexler katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com. We will have an information table on Rally Day. Hope that you can drop by to see what we are reading!

St. Paul's Church Finance Report

Through July this year, we have received \$350,147 in pledged money, \$1466 for weekly altar flowers, and \$1546 to offset the cost of meals for various functions. In addition we have received money for the use of the church, N.C. tax refunds, and Vanco expenses (charge for electronic money transfer) giving a total for the year through July of \$360,359 toward the church operating expenses.

While some expenses are over the budget, the overall operating expenses are on target at \$360,443 giving a difference between income and expenses of -\$84. We carried \$11,822 over from 2023 so we still have a positive balance between income and expenses, albeit a small one.

We may yet need to transfer funds from our capital reserves to the operating funds. This was anticipated since the budget we adopted for 2024 included a \$72,000 deficit.

In addition to regular offerings, we have received \$70,591 toward various "restricted" funds such as world hunger, Lutheran World relief, the pastor's discretionary fund, social ministry, youth trip to New Orleans, and the Afghan refugees to name a few.

We have also had a number of unexpected expenses that we have paid for through the budget, extra congregational giving and capital reserves. These include, tree work in the area between church and Wildflower Cottage, removal of a tree in front, roof leaks, replacement of broken window in one of the classrooms, and hiring a temporary office assistant due to Susan's illness.

Thank you for your generosity and all the support of St. Paul's members.

Our annual stewardship campaign is coming up this fall. I ask that you consider this information when making your pledge for 2025.

Respectfully,

John Foreman, Co-Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair

Picnic Supper, Wednesday, September 18

September's Wednesday Night Supper will be our annual Picnic on September 18, at 6:00 pm. It will include hamburgers, hot dogs, and impossible burgers, as well as various side dishes and dessert. Everyone is welcome to join us in Trinity Hall.

Save The Date:

OKTOBERFEST, Wednesday, October 16

Rally Day

Can you believe that we are already approaching fall and that means that Rally Day is just around the corner? On September 8th during the Sunday School hour (9:45 am to 10:30 am), St. Paul's Ministry Fair will be taking place in Trinity Hall. We will have over 20 different ministry groups that are just part of what makes St. Paul's a community. This is going to be a chance for you to see and learn about all the different ways God is calling you.

Each ministry will have a table in Trinity Hall where during this time you will get to ask what the ministry does, when they meet, and what you can do or how to join. We will have light pastries and fruit to munch on as you walk around and take in all the opportunities to show off the gifts and talents that God has given you and are just ready to be used here at St. Paul's. Since there will be so many different ministries, if you are not able to stop at all the tables you want to, information will be available afterward.

If you would like more information or have any questions please reach out to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com.

Working Adult Group

The working adult group has had a busy year and isn't slowing down anytime soon. We recently went and took an extremely fun tour at the Duke Lemur Center and enjoyed a nice relaxing picnic at Lake Crabtree.

The group had the chance to see some beautiful and spunky lemurs while we were on the tour on Saturday July 27th. The things you learn while watching these very cute creatures. And like they say in the Madagascar movie... "We like to move it move it."

Then on Saturday August 17th our group met up at Lake Crabtree to enjoy good food and company, on well the weather was absolutely beautiful. We had some great conversation as we continue to get to know each other and talk about some of our upcoming events.

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We are going to really have a busy and exciting September when we get the chance to watch one of St. Paul's very own Amanda Anderson when she performs at the FireBox Theater in "Dancing at Lughnasa." She will be performing September 19th - 29th so get your ticket while they are still available. Our other fun event will be going to Fall Fest: pumpkin carving with goats at Spring Haven Farm in Chapel Hill. This will be a chance to play with some goats while also showing off our creative side with pumpkin carving. And just think that by the next month article you will get to see pictures of the fun.

Make sure to pay attention to the weekly announcements so you can also get the chance to join us in our continued fun. Remember anyone is welcome to join us even the kids, cause aren't we all just kids at heart and love to have a fun time.

YOUNG IN SPIRIT Sunday, September 29, 3PM.

After a lazy, hazy summer we are ready to get together again for Young in Spirit. The September activity will be "Dancing at Lughnasa" a play by Brian Friel presented at the Firebox Theater, Wake Forest. Tickets are \$25.00 each. Our very own Amanda Anderson will be a main character.

Sign up on the bulletin board and reserve/pay for your tickets by September 8 to Marcia Redman. We will carpool from church. Dinner will follow.

JOIN us for a time of fellowship and fun! Everyone is welcome.

Thank you from Parktown Food Hub

Dear Pastor Anderson:

Thank you for the generous donation of pasta in June and July 2024 through our Adopt-A-Shelf program. St. Paul's generosity goes directly to people in need. In-kind donations like pasta are critical to our operation since they allow us to share generously with thousands of people each month while maintaining very low overhead costs. Thank you for loving your neighbors so well.

As I write this note I marvel at how the Parktown Food Hub has continued to grow and develop and meet the needs of our community as we build community by giving food to those in need. I am also listening to the first banks of Tropical Storm Debby bringing water and possibly wind and who knows what else. We are proud to be in the process of becoming a Disaster Relief Agency (DRA) of the

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Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. We were selected to be a DRA because of our location, our facilities, our history of community service, and our excellent staff – Operations Lead Elias Stephens, Program Coordinator Hannah Chalfant, Office Manager Kate Chalfant, and Executive Director Pastor Sharon Schulze – who give us the flexibility and resources to respond quickly when the need is greatest. As a DRA, we will be one of a small number of pantries to receive emergency resources for the community soon after a disaster. Your donations make our staff possible, and we appreciate your generosity. If you have friends or family members who would like to participate in our leadership in food security work, suggest that they donate what they can – either food, time, or using our online resources, money at <https://soduco.org/donate>.

The Parktown Food Hub is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code, tax number 87-2386150. Your contributions to the Parktown Food Hub are tax deductible to the extent legal. No goods or services were received in return for this gift. If you see an error in the amount, please let us know and we will correct it.

Thank you for your generous donation and for helping us provide a place for everyone to belong in a beloved community.

Thankfully,

Parktown Food Hub Board of Directors

Join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's!

Interested participating in worship? Want to learn more about music? Or perhaps you simply want to keep up your musical knowledge and abilities. You should join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's! It's a great way to achieve all of these things, and be part of a community.

Choir and handbell ensembles will be resuming on August 28th and September 4th respectively. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, handbells from 6:30-7:15 and choir from 7:15-8:30. Ensembles normally perform at the 11:00 service but occasionally at the 8:30 service. Some ability to read sheet music is required for handbells. Ability to read music is also a plus for choir, but not required.

If interested, contact Ted Turner, director of music at music@stpaulsdurham.org