

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*August 2021*

## What is a Vicar?

Such a strange word that means so much to the greater church and to us at St. Paul's. I get asked why we have vicars and what does it mean?

The term vicar comes from vicarious which had a meaning of one who learns from or substitutes for another. In the ELCA, vicars are 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year seminarians that spend one year in a parish setting, learning what it is to be a pastor. The ELCA is one of the few denominations that require this year of intensive learning.

Some have suggested that vicars are cheap labor. That is not true. The total cost for a vicar is about \$40,000 per year and the investment of time is significant. We have not budgeted that amount this coming year and do not plan to budget for a vicar the following year. We will be able to have a vicar beginning in August because of a generous donation from one member family.

The ELCA, like most mainline denominations, is very short of pastors for our congregations. Without places like St. Paul's for vicars to learn, we would have even fewer pastors in the future. St. Paul's knows how to be a teaching parish and this is much appreciated by the seminary and the NC Synod. We benefit from the knowledge and insight of our Vicars.

We hopefully remember the new Vicar rules. We introduce ourselves by name for the first few meetings with the Vicar. Wear your nametag. Remember each Vicar is different, has different learning goals and different needs. The first few weeks of the Vicar's time with us is spent with me discerning the duties the Vicar will begin with during this first quarter. Remember to invite Vicar Mac for a meal.

We are called in love, to show them what it means to be the Body of Christ in this place. That doesn't mean that we are all bosses or all supervisors. The pastor supervises the Vicar and the Vicar has an internship committee that supports and helps to guide their work. We are called to live the good news and help to continue their formation into a pastor of the church.

Pastor Scott



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

McIver Mullins, Vicar

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA

## From the Pastor ...

We are beginning to regather and on August 15<sup>th</sup> we will have a meeting of people involved with committees and other groups that traditionally have met at the church. We will begin to discuss the current committee structure, debate whether to change it and plan for the future. Some of the topics that we hope to discuss will include:

- Should all committee meeting night be restarted and if so, what should that look like?
- New groups have formed and should we formalize these new groups (like the phone committee) into standing committees?
- Leadership in some committees has changed or could possibly transition to new people. How do we facilitate this? Who will take leadership roles?
- Do we need the current committee structure?
- Time and Talent Sunday will be Rally Day, September 12. Which groups, committees will be represented? Who will take charge of this effort?
- Wildflower Cottage is hoping to be out of our building by January or earlier. What are we going to do with their space? Should it stay open for a period of time? Should we put a team together to plan for its future use?
- How do we celebrate the work that has been done by groups in the church during the pandemic?
- What will Stewardship look like at the end of 2021?
- Communications has been transitioning to a more tech production committee – is that appropriate? How do we maintain a quality technical production team without burning out the people currently producing the worship service?

As you can see these are significant topics of conversation and there are probably many more topics to discuss. We have many people signing up to attend this meeting. If you have received an invite because of your previous work, please let us know you are planning to attend or not. If you would like to attend, please let Susan Esposito know ([admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)) by August 7 so we can make sure we have enough food for lunch. Lunch will be served at 11:30 am, with the meeting to follow at noon.

Please pray for those meeting and for the Holy spirit to guide our work.

Pastor Scott

## From the Vicar ...

It is hard to believe that August is already upon us! I am very excited to begin ministry with you all in just

a few short weeks. If this past year and a half has taught us anything, it is to be prepared for surprises in our life in Christ! My time with you as your vicar may be unpredictable as we still live out this pandemic, but it will certainly be a time spent in love, faith, and the Gospel of Jesus.

I have just finished my second year of studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary where I am working towards a Master of Divinity. When I return to Southern, I will be pursuing the unusual task of writing a senior thesis with a focus on the relationship between Baptism and Communion. Prior to seminary, I worked in higher education administration for eight years at DePaul University and Queens University of Charlotte. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from DePaul and spent seven fantastic years living in Chicago.

I am a native of Concord, NC where my home church is St. James Evangelical Lutheran. While there, I worked with our youth ministry and served on the church council right up until my time with you. My mother spent her childhood in the Durham area (Bahama to be exact), so I have a special fondness for Durham and am looking forward to moving “back” to the family hometown.

One of the nice things about young age is a short biography! I hope to meet many of you in my first weeks at St. Paul’s. I pray that our year together is one where we can come have deeper relationships with each other and with Christ through our work together. God bless you all and see you soon.

Vicar Mac



*Vicar Mac Mullins*

## Duke Lutherans: Summer Life Together

Summer greetings, St. Paul’s family! As I write this, our students are enjoying their summers ... traveling, seeing family members, swimming, hiking, and biking. But many of them, particularly our graduate students, are still here in town, conducting research and pursuing lab work. Even though they’re as busy as ever, I’m thankful they’re still here because it’s given us more time to spend together and opportunities to share our lives and stories. In fact, one of our favorite spots to meet is the outdoor patio at Cloche Coffee, just a ten-minute walk from our siblings in Christ at Grace Lutheran!

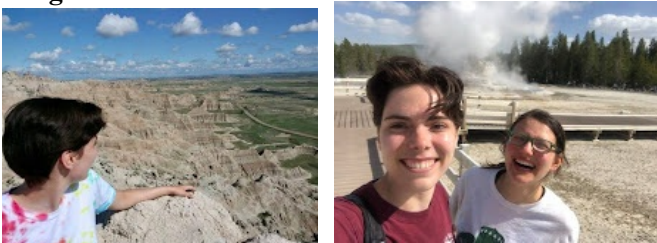
As we prepare now for a new school year, we are so excited to return to in-person ministry. This means Sunday Evening Prayer and dinner in the York Room at

the Divinity School, fellowship lunches on campus, Grace House meals, a fall beach retreat, Pub Theology, our service-learning spring Break Trip, and much, much more! Please keep us and all students in your prayers, dear ones, that God would bless us with a safe, fun, meaningful, and grace-filled year.

Finally, I'm happy to include here a few summer highlights and pictures from two of our students, Katie Elkin and Magdalena Phillips. Katie is a rising 3<sup>rd</sup> year MDiv student and Magdalena is beginning her junior year as a Biology and Spanish major, minoring in Environmental Science.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Amanda ([amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu))

**Magdalena**



*The highlights of my summer was my road trip! My friend Isabel and I went to 9 different states. Here's me at Badlands National Park and also us after getting sprayed by a geyser at Yellowstone!*

I'm most looking forward to my classes next semester, especially Marine Policy! They're on topics I'm very, very interested in, so hopefully I'll like them a lot. Also, I'm excited to meet all the new students at the Duke Marine Lab. It's awesome to spend time with other nerds.

**Katie**



*First day of internship wearing a beautiful prayer shawl made by members of HTELC*

*Leading the music at outdoor worship on July 4th.*

At the beginning of the summer, I had the joy of attending several of my friends' weddings – one in Alabama and one in California. My first time in both of those states! Throughout the rest of the summer, I have been serving as a summer pastoral intern with Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC. I have enjoyed leading worship, preaching a couple of Sundays, and getting to know the congregation and

community there.

I am most looking forward to going back to school in-person with my classmates. I can't wait to reconnect with friends and community in all sorts of ways, especially by singing with the Duke Chapel Choir on Sunday mornings and worshipping with the Duke Lutherans on Sunday nights.

**Preschool Pitter Patter**

*by Amanda Stoen*



A huge THANK YOU for the generous donations the St. Paul's community made to the Preschool Un-fundraiser campaign!

We are thrilled to receive the financial support to allow us to continue to provide financial scholarships to preschool families as well as to purchase additional outdoor equipment to operate the preschool during this pandemic.

Through your donations we will be providing scholarships for three families this school year with some cushion for families who may have a financial situation occur during the school year. Over the past nine years, the preschool has offered financial scholarships to 28 families for a total of \$25,376!

Your support throughout the years has enabled these families to send their child/ren to preschool and lessen the financial strain to their family budgets. Your continued support sustains our mission and makes a difference in our Durham community.

This past school year, the teachers improved our outdoor learning spaces and created innovative curricula to support the children in our outdoor classrooms. The Un-fundraiser campaign will additionally allow the preschool to continue to further develop our outdoor learning spaces to use this school year and beyond as well as support the teachers' outdoor lesson plans.

We plan to purchase sturdy shade structures, additional equipment and gardening materials. We look forward to sharing our growing spaces with you throughout the school year.

I, the Preschool Board, and the families are deeply grateful for the support of St. Paul's church and preschool families. Together we are making a difference.

**Change of Phone Number**

Anna Snyder has changed her phone number. Her new number can be found in St. Paul's on-line directory or the "Instant Church Directory" phone app.

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## Council Corner

by Claire Cooney

*President of Congregational Council*

I noticed on my calendar from 2020 that July 23<sup>rd</sup> was the anniversary of Tessa's Baptism. What a joyful day it was – my Mom joined us in person, my brother and his family zoomed in from Germany, so many members joined us over zoom, and then a small group joined us in the sanctuary, masked and six feet apart. As hard as this past year has been because of the pandemic, I am reminded of the joy of that day having my daughter join as a sister in Christ, into the St. Paul's community of faith. And how wonderful that we could record it for us to have, and so many participate and witness this from all over? I hope you'll join us on Rally Day to find new ways to serve and build a stronger, grace-filled St. Paul's community. Mark your calendars now for Rally Day - Sunday, September 12!

## Vacation Bible School Day July 24, 2021

This year was presenting challenges to us in so many different ways. We wanted to bring a VBS program to the children (and adults) to try and grasp some sense of normalcy.

We began the day at 9:00 am with an opening sing along in Trinity Hall. Then we moved outside for crafts and exploration stations. The children created rainsticks and dug out treasure from mud blocks (actually chalk). Story time was next in our lower level where the walls are decorated with Ark animals. There the children got to pick out an animal mask to wear. Next we all learned about bees and had a first-hand look at them in an active hive, explore an empty hive, and taste honey. Next "Noah," better known as Pastor Scott, was at the Ark having a conversation with God. The next stop was another craft and explore – making a scent bag and sand rainbow pictures. From there we moved to the picnic lunch followed by a magic and balloon animal show by Happy Dan in Trinity Hall!

We had 26 children and over 38 adults who enjoyed the VBS day, ate hot dogs, watermelon, popcorn, chips, and icees. What could be better! A very large thanks to all who participated, child and adult!!!

## St. Paul's Readers

by Katherine Trexler

Although our book club meetings are on summer break, it is a great time to start reading our fall selections.

Our September book is *Bury Your Dead* by Louise Penny. From the pen of a best loved mystery series writer, Chief Inspector Armand Gamache investigates the connection between a recent murder in Quebec City and the death of Samuel de Champlain, the founder of the city four hundred years earlier.

In October, we will discuss *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. A masterpiece of religious satire, this book is one of the most engaging account of temptation – and the triumph over it – ever written.

In November, our novel is *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Segovia. Set against the backdrop of the Mexican Revolution and the 1918 influenza pandemic, this tale of an uncannily gifted child captures both the fate of a country in flux and the destiny of one family that has put their love, faith, and future in the unbelievable.

Please consider participating in our monthly meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 3 pm). We invite all readers to join us. Please contact Katherine Trexler ([katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com)) with any questions. Happy Reading!

## Financial Statements

If you would like to have a statement of your financial contributions to St. Paul's from January - June mailed to you, please email [financial.sec@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:financial.sec@stpaulsdurham.org) or contact one of the Co-Financial Secretaries, Phil Hart or Rod Runestad. Please note that contribution statements for January-September and for all of 2021 will be mailed.

## Pound the Vicar!

McIver Mullins (Mac), our Vicar for the next year, is arriving at the beginning of August. Pounding suggestions are: paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, basic items for kitchen use. Another item which is very versatile are gift cards - can be generic, a store brand (Target, Walmart, etc.), VISA - he can use locally. A box will be in the atrium for you to place "pounding items." Please bring by August 8.