

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*November 2020*

## ADVENT AND BONHOEFFER

*"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, who look forward to something greater to come. For these, it is enough to wait in humble fear until the Holy One himself comes down to us, God in the child in the manger. God comes. The Lord Jesus comes. Christmas comes. Christians rejoice!" – Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Once again this year the Duke Lutherans will lead St. Paul's in our Wednesday night Advent worship services. Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm on December 2, 9, 16, and 23, as we gather virtually via Zoom, together with our undergraduate and graduate students who've returned to their homes for winter break. Although we will deeply miss celebrating Advent and receiving Communion in the beautiful St. Paul's sanctuary, we trust that worshipping in this way will keep everyone as safe as possible. (The Zoom link and bulletin will be shared closer to December.)

As we pray and sing Evening Prayer (*Vespers*), we will also hear Advent Scripture texts paired with excerpts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings and sermons. Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian. As a founder member of the Confessing Church, he participated in the German Resistance movement against Nazism. His involvement in plans by members of the *Abwehr* (the German Military Intelligence Office) to assassinate Adolf Hitler resulted in his arrest in April 1943 and his subsequent execution by hanging in April 1945, shortly before the war's end. The Church commemorates Bonhoeffer as a martyr and witness on April 9, the anniversary of his death.

Bonhoeffer is also very special to the Duke Lutherans community because his teaching that we are "called to life together" defines our identity and mission. "Christ opened up the way to God and to one another. Now Christians can live with each other in peace; they can love and serve one another; they can become one" (*Life Together*).

We hope you will join us this Advent as we eagerly await Emmanuel's birth!

Peace, Pastor Amanda



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

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## From the Pastor...

On November 1, we remembered the ten saints that died in the past twelve months. Some of them were family members that we hold dear and most were dearly beloved saints of St. Paul's.

During a coffee hour in the past week, we lamented that replacing the services provided by some of these members will be difficult and it is the little things they did that will be hard to replace.

Those who we remember are: Geoffrey Summers, Doris Ann Hair, Alice Richmond, Theodore Roosevelt Watson, Sonja Bock, James Sackett, Carol Sackett, David Taylor, Kaaren Johanson, Seth Kitange.

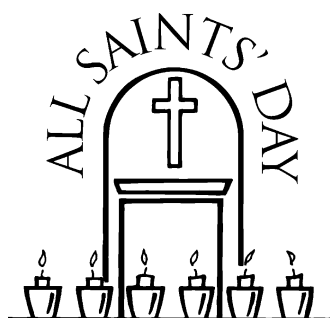
Just to name a few for the things they did: Geoffrey opened the church on Sunday mornings, prepared the coffee and ushered. Alice for many years answered the phones one day a week. Ted was a faithful usher at early service. Jim and Carol were our ushers at 11 am for years and sang in the choir and I still don't know how we will get the candles ready for Christmas eve. Kaaren was one of our faithful community activists leading the CROP Walk for Durham for many years. I could go on and on of the committee work, connections to our children, and the love we all had for each and every one of them.

Life goes on however, even in the face of pandemic. We will need the help of new saints of God to continue the work of worship, fellowship and generosity. We remember them and their presence among us and rejoice in their new life with Christ. That's the way we start November. And in the middle of the month we will continue to offer outdoor worship. We will find new ways to stay together.

And the month will end with the beginning of a new church year, Advent and soon Christmas. Advent and Christmas will look different and will be different. We are working to find the correct, safe ways to celebrate these events. So, watch your email and offer suggestions. Pray for the family of God here at St. Paul's and throughout the world.

And may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Pastor Scott



## What a Month!

October has been a busy month. I have had the pleasure of beginning Children's Chapel with our St. Paul's Preschool and find that to be an unabashedly happy event. We have been reading Bible stories from the Spark Bible Story Bible, and the kids have been good about helping with the sound effects, such as the wind blowing (Whew! Whew!). They also enjoy volunteering to be my helpers – lighting candles (no open flames, just twist the top or throw a switch) and handing out items to their classmates. This past week, we celebrated Reformation Sunday by sending home pages of Martin Luther and the Luther Rose for them to color.

Some things have not been so happy, as we have said goodbye to too many people at St. Paul's. While we rejoice that they are with the Lord, their absence still leaves a hole in our hearts. Please remember in your prayers the family members and friends they leave behind.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a devotion. You may have noticed that our sign-up dates end this month. I will be publishing a new Sign-Up Genius link very soon, so think about contributing a devotion. Writing them is a good experience. During Advent, we will have devotion every day, not only Monday-Friday, using a set of devotions written to work together. Don't go away, though – there will be devotional opportunities before and after Advent, and if you email devotions to me, I may just double up on a few days. Please know also that a number of members at St. Paul's have mentioned that they find the devotions meaningful and help them connect to the church while we are unable to meet together in person.

Next month (next week!), I will be offering a series of Bible studies on stewardship. We will meet by Zoom at 7 pm on Tuesday evenings. I hope to see many of you there!

Blessings, Vicar Judy Goans

## Council Corner

by Tina Bessias  
President, Congregation Council

The Congregation Council is planning to hold the annual congregational meeting in December. That's where we will elect council members and approve a budget. We don't know just what form the meeting will take, but please put December 13 on your calendar. The governor's current executive order is to be updated in mid-November, and that will help us decide on timing and physical or virtual format. We'll

share the plan with you before Thanksgiving.

Thank you to all who are ushering, directing cars, and assisting with worship. Indoor and outdoor services present different challenges, but all worship formats require significant volunteer labor. There's a task for anyone willing to help! When a sign up sheet is full, especially for multiple weeks, it gives your worship leaders a sense of peace; it allows them to really focus on preparing for worship. Conversely, an empty sign up sheet brings stress and distraction. Please get in touch with Susan or use our Sign up Genius links to let us know if you can volunteer.

The stewardship campaign is going well but not yet finished. There is a letter about that included in this newsletter. The finance team will soon make its projection of 2021 income for the council to use in setting the budget. Please contact Phil Hart or Rod Runestad, our financial secretaries, if you wish to make a pledge or have any questions about this process. They're also ready to help you with changes to your giving at any time.

It was great to see Anastasia Smith confirmed on Reformation Day. All Saints, Advent, and Christmas will be upon us soon. Perhaps the unusual forms of the worship services for these seasons will help us hear the word of God in new ways. We will celebrate, come what may!

God's peace,  
Tina

## Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



There are so many benefits of being outside. Young children have been affected by this pandemic just as we have, and being back at preschool, establishing routines and

playing with friends brings a sense of normalcy and safety to our preschool children. Playing in and with nature provides children with many physical, cognitive and social and emotional benefits. We have noticed that children are much calmer and willing to try new things when we are outside. Children have better concentration, less stress, more physical activity and increased engagement in learning.

Our fours class has been learning all about bugs and insects and created their own terrarium, drew and painted the insects they found and explored in the dirt to see what they could find. This exploration and

discovery creates a healthy relationship with nature and all of God's creatures. If we want this generation to save our planet, then we must teach them to be good stewards of the earth. We must engage children in the outside with dirt, critters and creatures and all kinds of natural materials.

Vicar Judy started Chapel Time with our threes and fours classes in October. We are outside and socially distanced so it is a very different way of doing Chapel Time this year. Outside is a great place to hear Bible stories and learn about God's love.

We have created an Amazon Wish List, if you would like to support our outdoor spaces: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1/ref=cm\\_go\\_nav\\_hz](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1/ref=cm_go_nav_hz)

Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this time.

## Global Missions

"Young Adults in Global Missions" (or YAGM) invites you to support future volunteers! YAGM is the fastest-growing Global Missions program in the ELCA, and sends young adults ages 21-29 to 13 countries around the world for a life-changing year of service and accompaniment. Katie Elkin, Duke Lutheran and second-year Masters of Divinity student, and Madison Burke, Duke Lutherans pianist, served in Madagascar and Mexico, respectively.



This year, due to the global pandemic, YAGM did not send volunteers for the 2020-2021 year. As part of an effort to sustain and improve the program for future volunteers, future and current country coordinators, and our companions around the world, YAGM is launching a fundraising campaign – #YAGMForward. We write as two of the almost 1000 people who have served in the YAGM program since the program's founding in 2000. Each country's program has a fundraising goal of \$15,000 by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Go to these websites to support the Mexico ([https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?team\\_id=2361&pg=team&fr\\_id=1380](https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=2361&pg=team&fr_id=1380)) or Madagascar ([https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?team\\_id=2366&pg=team&fr\\_id=1380](https://support.elca.org/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=2366&pg=team&fr_id=1380)) country programs!

## Social Ministry

The Social Ministry committee offers information regarding opportunities to our St. Paul's congregation and others to give gifts that might make a difference in someone's life.

1. **ELCA Good Gifts** – You might buy food or arts and crafts items from near and far that support those creating these “gifts”; or you might support students at seminary or elementary; offer assistance to stabilize lives after a disaster upsets them. A few catalogs are in the atrium. Contact: <https://goodgifts.elca.org>
2. **Lutheran World Relief** – “focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery.” Contact: <https://lwr.org> or LWR, P O Box 17061, Baltimore MD 21297-1061 or by phone: 800-597-5972.
3. **Lutheran Services Carolinas** – offers a wide range of services for seniors, children and families, refugees and immigrants and disaster response in both NC and SC. Contact: <https://lscarolinas.net>, Lutheran Services Carolinas 14165 MLK, Jr Ave, P O Box 947, Salisbury NC 28145 or phone: 704-637-2870
4. **SERRV** – “to empower small scale global artisans and farmers through long-term trading partnerships, helping them build sustainable employment, resources and rights and a vision of hope in their communities.” Items like food, clothing, arts and crafts. Contact: <https://www.serrv.org>, Phone for orders: 888-294-6376.
5. **Bull City Fair Trade** (formerly One World Market) – Fair trade items (food, arts and crafts) that give the creators or growers of the items for sale the opportunity to make a decent living. Contact: <http://www.bullcityfairtrade.com> 811 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100, Durham NC 27701, phone: 919-286-2451
6. **Thistle Farms** – “You help blaze a path for physical, mental, and economic freedom for women survivors.” Clothing items, jewelry and candles and lotions and more. Contact: <https://thistlefarms.org>, 5122 Charlotte Pike, Nashville TN 37209, phone 615-392-1140
7. **Urban Ministries of Durham** – “connects with the community to end homelessness and fight poverty by offering food, shelter and a future to our neighbors in need.” St. Paul's contact: Nancy Dewhirst; UMD contact: <https://umdurham.org>, 410 Liberty St, Durham NC 27701, phone 919-682-0538.

## Caring for Those Wounded by Racism

Recently, the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, the founder of Stephen Ministry, sent a mailing to St. Paul's Stephen Leaders. Following are excerpts from his important message.

*“The horrific and tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and others are just the most recent wrongs inflicted upon people of color. At Stephen Ministries, we grieve with those who have lost loved ones through racial violence. We grieve with those who have suffered the pain and abuse of racism. And we grieve for a country stained by the sins of slavery, the false promises of Reconstruction, the injustices of decades of Jim Crow and segregation, and the ongoing acceptance of racism in all its forms. Stephen Ministries condemns the sins of racism and the impact that historic, deeply rooted, and systemic inequities have on our staff, the congregations and communities we serve, and our nation.*

*“Whether recent, or sustained over generations, the wounds of racism are deep ... I am encouraged by the work of Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers throughout the country and the world who continue to let the light of Christ shine into the lives of wounded people. The skills honed as Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers are vital in caring for those suffering from injustice. The simple act of genuine, respectful listening can start the healing process. Listen, empathize, and validate the suffering person's feelings, remembering that the anger and pain people of color may be expressing now is rooted in hundreds of years of denial and neglect.”*

Dr. Haugk closes with the following:

*“The very best gift you can offer a suffering person is a heart full of understanding, eyes filled with tears, and ears ready to listen.”*

If you or someone you know is suffering the pain of injustice or in need of support for another life situation, please contact one of our Stephen leaders: Kim Hoke, Judy Kraska, and Nan Treul. They welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.

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## Received by Affirmation of Baptism

On Sunday, October 25, 2020 – Reformation Sunday – we welcomed Anastasia Smith, daughter of Angela Zielaskowski, through Affirmation of Baptism. Anastasia completed her confirmation instruction with Pastor Scott.



## In the Mailbag...

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you so much for the many prayers, cards, and expressions of condolence on the passing of my father, David Taylor. They were of great comfort to Curtis, Victor and I. Thank you to those that came to David's memorial service, even though you had never met him. I also very much appreciated the items of comfort in the care bag given by the ladies of the Women's Connections.

Sincerely,  
Maria Chi

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*In the sure and certain hope of the  
resurrection to eternal life,  
we commend to almighty God*

**Carol Sackett**, who died on October 3, 2020. Her funeral was held in the St. Paul's Columbarium on Friday, October 9.

**Kaaren Lisa Johanson**, who died on October 5, 2020. Her funeral was held on Tuesday, October 13 in the St. Paul's Columbarium on Tuesday, October 13.

**David Leroy Taylor**, father of Maria Chi, who died on October 4. A funeral service was held on Friday, October 23 in the sanctuary with interment in the Columbarium.

**Seth Kitange**, who died on Friday, October 16, 2020 in Tanzania, Africa. A memorial service was held on Monday, October 19 at St. Paul's.

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## Memorials Received

The following memorials were received in memory of those as designated.

**Ted Watson** - by Friends of Theodore Watson Sr.

### **Kaaren Johanson**

Katherine Trexler, Durham  
Deborah Smith, West Hartford CT  
Kim and Tim Hoke, Chapel Hill  
Joanne and Frank Stasio, Durham

### **Jim Sackett**

Gary and Sue Dahl, Durham  
Kim and Tim Hoke, Chapel Hill

### **Carol Sackett**

Gary and Sue Dahl, Durham  
Phil and Sally Hart, Durham  
Tom and Ruth Ann Meier, Durham  
Marcia and Dean Redman, Chapel Hill  
Katherine Trexler, Durham  
Diana Wang, Durham  
Triangle Vet Hospital, Durham  
John Dyke, Garner  
Carole and Larry Ostrowski, Hurdle Mills  
Tony and Penni Perrotte, Durham  
Rachel Harter and Hitch Havill, Chapel Hill  
Ted and Diana Dominick, Durham  
Kim and Tim Hoke, Chapel Hill  
Dick Clendaniel, Durham

### **Carol and Jim Sackett**

Lois Boynton, Chapel Hill

### **Seth Kitange**

Kim and Tim Hoke, Chapel Hill

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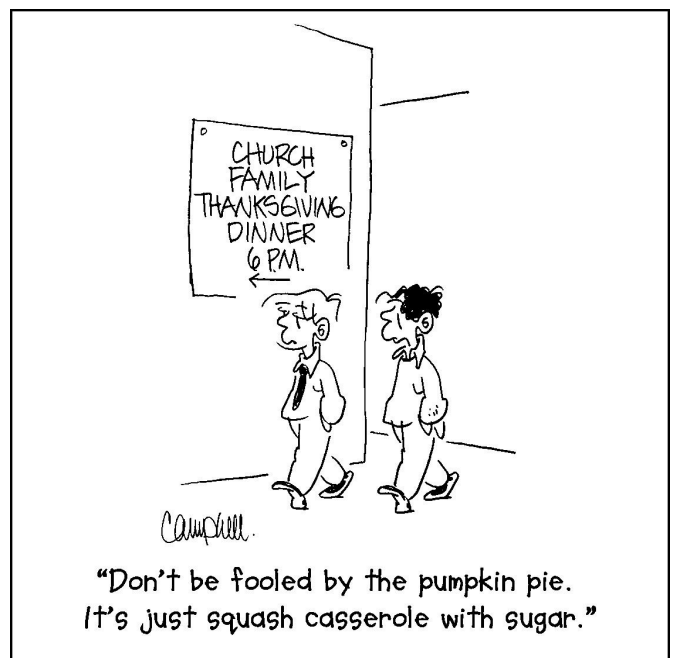
## Changes of Address

### **Neema Kitange**

200 Glengary Ct, Apt 306  
Durham NC 27707

### **Laura Howard**

3700 Kenzie Ct  
Morehead City NC 28557-4378





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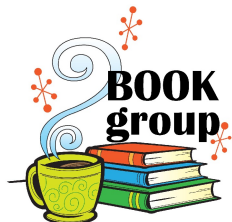
### Can you help with Worship

Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

- ◆ **Sunday 10 am In Person Worship Assistance**  
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1> Tasks which can be signed up for include: Assisting Minister, Parking Lot Guides (2), Lector, Set up Help (3), Sound, Ushers (2), and Clean Up Help (3)
- ◆ **Wednesday Recording Worship**  
-- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-assisting> - Tasks include Assisting Minister, Communion on Sunday, and Lector - The recording takes place on Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary
- ◆ **Drive Through Communion on Sundays**  
-- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-drive> -- Tasks include helping with communion (2 persons) on Sundays between 11:15 and noon

### St. Paul's Readers

Everyone is invited to join the discussion of Sin By Any Other Name: Reckoning With Racism, by Robert W. Lee, at the zoom meeting at 3:00 pm Thursday, November 19. No book or meeting is scheduled for December.



### Stewardship Bible Studies



JOIN OUR  
**STUDY**

Do you ever wonder about what the Bible says about stewardship? Vicar Judy will lead a series of Bible studies on Tuesday evenings in November. Bible studies will begin November 3 at 7 pm via Zoom. Each will last about 45 minutes, with time for questions.

The zoom link will be posted beforehand. We hope to see you online!

