

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*December 2020*

## ADVENT AND 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 worshiping in this way will keep everyone as safe as possible. 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.

### **Zoom Information:**

#### **Topic: Advent Wednesday Worship**

Time: Dec 2, 2020 07:00 PM, Dec 9, 2020 07:00 PM, Dec 16, 2020 07:00 PM, Dec 23, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85274119536?pwd=WTJpKothdEoyWFleBHBESUhPWGFkZzo9>

Meeting ID: 852 7411 9536 – Passcode: 439129

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,85274119536#,,,,,0#,,439129# US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 852 7411 9536

Passcode: 439129

Find your local number: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85274119536?pwd=WTJpKothdEoyWFleBHBESUhPWGFkZzo9>



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- ★ **3:00 pm - Children and family service** in the back parking lot, limited to 50 people in person and overflow can listen on the local FM channel 87.9. Holy Communion will be available to those at the service and drive-through immediately after the service.
- ★ **7:00 pm - Live outdoor worship** in the back parking lot, limited to 50 people in person and overflow can listen on the local FM channel 87.9.
- ★ **Recorded** – We will have a recorded Christmas eve service on Vimeo

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Judy Goans, Vicar

Jackie Fryt, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

[pastor@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsdurham.org)

[admin@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsdurham.org)

[music@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:music@stpaulsdurham.org)

[preschool@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:preschool@stpaulsdurham.org)

[vicar@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:vicar@stpaulsdurham.org)

[bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org)

[amanda.highben@duke.edu](mailto:amanda.highben@duke.edu)

[crhugg@charter.net](mailto:crhugg@charter.net)

Church Office Phone: 919-489-3214 \* Fax: 919-490-1088 \* Website: [www.stpaulsdurham.org](http://www.stpaulsdurham.org)

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

## From the Pastor

There is so much happening that I want to make sure you all know, so I decided to do a summary of things that are coming up.

- ▶ **Donations** can be made to St. Paul's for "Parktown Food Hub" this Christmas Season. We would like to have the donations in by December 15 so that we can send the donations to Pastor Sharon Schulze at the Parktown Food Hub. She and her congregation, the South Durham Connection, will be distributing gift cards to the needy among the 2,000 they serve on a monthly basis. None of our usual giving tree organizations have reached out to us this year and Pastor Sharon called me just prior to this newsletter to ask for our help. Because we are not meeting in person and contactless giving is the best giving this year, Parktown's giving program offers us the best opportunity to share at this time.
- ▶ **Damascus House sale** to Wildflower Cottage will close on December 2, 2020. The sale price approved by the congregation was \$485,000. Tina Bessias will sign the documents on our behalf. Wildflower has submitted a rezoning application to the city and has also submitted drawings for their renovation. They anticipate completion by the end of June, 2021.
- ▶ **Christmas Eve Worship:** We will have a recorded service available before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve we will hold a children's service at 3 pm in the back parking lot, limited to 50 people in person and overflow can listen on the local FM channel 87.9 fm. We will offer communion to those in attendance as well as those in cars (they can drive thru immediately after the service). We will also offer a live outdoor worship limited to 50 people at 7 pm. I hope to have several fire pits in the parking lot to offer some warmth and the snuggies will still be available for use or purchase (\$20). Overflow can also listen on car radio on 87.9 FM. If it should rain, we will not move indoors unless the indoor worship numbers increase from the current 10.
- ▶ **The Chrismon Tree** is up and the church is decorated for Advent. Stop by for prayer and meditation.
- ▶ **The CCG has placed Advent and Christmas decorations** in the Atrium and Sanctuary. Another good reason to visit.
- ▶ **Marcia Redman has moved the Lending Library** from above the coat closets in the back

hall to rolling library racks near the front door. Come borrow a book.

- ▶ **Continued thanks** go out to those editing our worship services: Jackie Nappi, Megan Mauriello, Tim Hoke, Dean Redman, Tom Kraska, Jonathan Maine. Your work is greatly appreciated. Prayers go out daily for you all, may you have a blessed Advent and Christmas.  
Pastor Scott

## Advent

Dear friends at St. Paul's, this newsletter is so full of news that I will simply wish you a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas. As we prepare ourselves to meet Jesus anew, in his birth and at his return, let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes, remembering that to all who received him, he gave power to become children of God (John 1:12) "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

Blessings, Judy Goans, Vicar

## Hope and Expectation

On Sunday night, November 22, Duke Lutherans met for our last (virtual) Evening Prayer of the semester (and of 2020 for that matter). Advent came a little early for us this year, since Duke students are not returning for classes after Thanksgiving. But more significantly, in the face of our fatigue and the stress of finals, we *knew* we needed Advent this year, and the hope and expectation that come with the season. Therefore we sang beloved Advent hymns; shared in Thanksgiving for Baptism (tracing crosses on our foreheads with water from our homes); heard the angel tell Joseph in a dream in Matthew's Gospel to name the child Jesus; joined in the ancient contemplative prayer practice *Lectio Divina*; and prayed the Lord's Prayer in different languages, including English, Spanish, Malagasy, Swahili, Italian, and Javanese. Our service ended with this benediction:

*The God of hope,  
Through Christ our peace,  
In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever. Amen.*

God's hope, Christ's peace, the Holy Spirit's power. These three have sustained our Duke Lutherans community this semester, and we trust they will continue to do so in the new year. But one additional

blessing has made all the difference for us: the self-giving love of *all* our supporters: our faithful partner congregations St. Paul's and Grace, the dedicated members of our Duke Lutheran Committee, our gracious alumni, and our many friends scattered through the country. You've prayed for us, assembled care packages, joined us for worship, mailed messages of encouragement, studied the Bible with us, engaged with us in the work of racial reconciliation, and even provided rides to the airport. We are so grateful.

This August we also announced our 2020 Matching Campaign, mindful of the financial challenges so many have faced because of the pandemic. But because of our donors' exceeding generosity, we raised \$25,000! Fifty-eight different people donated sixty-nine gifts! Words are not enough to express our deep appreciation for your partnership in ministry. Thank you for making our 2020 Campaign such a success and thank you for believing in the essential work we do with our students.

Lastly, please know I count it a great blessing to serve as the Duke Lutherans Campus Pastor. Indeed, even though I've now been here since June, it still feels a bit surreal to me, as I've long dreamed of being a campus pastor. Our students are compassionate, thoughtful, and resilient followers of Jesus. What a joy it is to take this journey with them!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Amanda Highben

## Council Corner

*by Tina Bessias  
Congregational Council President*

In recent weeks, the level of activity in our building has increased significantly. Our staff and occasional volunteers have been in the office while following protocols for hygiene, distancing, and mask wearing. The Preschool and Wildflower Cottage have adapted to the weather and moved more of their activities indoors. They have found ingenious ways to use nooks and crannies to maintain social distance and keep children safely engaged. It is remarkable to see our building and grounds being used in such new and varied ways! And it is fortunate that their needs for indoor space will decrease as the weather gets warmer and – we hope! – physical gatherings of the congregation will begin to be safe and feasible.

To enhance the health and safety of all who use our building, the congregation council has decided to purchase an iWave air purification system. Our HVAC Contractor, Comfort Mechanical, will install it at a

cost of \$9,883.00. It is promised to dramatically reduce both bacterial and viral pathogens as well as allergens. The Council did its homework to investigate these claims and was satisfied that the system is a wise investment. Among our findings are that Yates Baptist, Aldersgate, and a number of other churches and daycares have chosen to install similar systems.

Our budget does not have a spare \$9,883, of course. Families who have had donations made to the memorials fund in memory of their loved ones, have agreed that memorial gifts in their honor could be used for this purpose. We also invite all of you to make a contribution to this effort. If you write an extra check or make a donation online, please indicate “air purifier system” as the purpose.

The other major piece of news is that the closing on Damascus House is set for December 2. Wildflower Cottage will purchase it for \$485,000 in fulfillment of the agreement approved by the congregation last December. We will be able to pay off the mortgage on that property, pay off the loan from our Endowment and Memorial Garden funds, and bank a significant portion of the money in our capital reserve fund. We are also applying to refinance the much bigger mortgage on our main building. We will provide an update when there is news on that front.



Fortunately, not all the news of the congregation council is financial. We approved an idea put forward by the Continuing Conversation Group to set up nativity scenes and clusters of angels with varied ethnic and racial characteristics. They have done a beautiful job!

Watch for chances to view these scenes in real life or in pictorial form; Curtis Chi has taken a beautiful set of photos that will be shared in the month of December. As we contemplate these scenes, might we expand our sense of God's presence in our human community?

Potential leaders have stepped up to serve on the Congregation Council: Maria Chi, Barbara Ellertson, Tim Hoke, and Aaron Klink will be on the ballot for the three seats that will open up as Tony Perrotte, Lisa Lewis, and I step down. You will receive information about them and about the budget before the December 13 congregational meeting. The “meeting” will be virtual, with minimal opportunity for interaction, but the Zoom information sessions will give you a chance to ask questions and find out anything you want about the operations of the church. I hope to see you at 12:00

on December 6 or 9:00 on December 13. If you don't "do Zoom," please feel free to call me with questions or ideas. We want everyone to know what's going on at St. Paul's!

In our finances, our reunions, our opportunities to worship together and pursue long-delayed initiatives, 2021 has the potential to be a wonderful year in the life of St. Paul's. Please join the information sessions and meeting to help launch it!

Wishing you peace,

Tina Bessias, Congregation President

## Preschool Pitter Patter



*by Amanda Stoen*

We have entered the season of thankfulness. The simplest things bring us so much joy. We enjoy being together as a preschool even as our classes are separate from each other. We are

living more in the moment and let the world around us infiltrate our bodies and minds. We are present with the children and have taken things back to the basics. The expectation is love, safety and acceptance.

As a staff we talk a lot about noticing instead of judging. Conscious Discipline teaches us how to describe what we see instead of saying "Good job." We notice kind and helpful acts such as when a child pushes a chair to the table so others can get by or when a child picks up something that fell on the ground and gives it to their friend. By noticing the actions of children, we are helping to create an inner voice that becomes aware of their actions and world *and* that they affect others. I am so thankful to have a staff that teachers these skills to our preschool children every day and to work together as a team.

Here are just a few things that our preschool children are thankful for: their friends, mom and dad, Halloween, sunshine, big brothers and sisters, baby brothers and sisters, snacks, swinging, painting and the butterflies.

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%20=w1\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1?ref%20=w1_share)

Finally, I am so thankful that our preschool is open again and we have such great outdoor space to use during this pandemic. It is such a joy to see so many children here each day happily playing outside.

## Books and Puzzles

*by the Nurturing Committee*

St. Paul's has its very own "little Free Library," and it is available to all! Take a book/leave a book.

During the time of pandemic, we have a lot of time to enjoy reading. If you're one who prefers holding a book in your hands, you've probably found even the public library has a schedule to pick up a book. But, you can still have good reading material, to pick up at your leisure, right here at church! No return date! There are many choices, even large print. Stop in to church and choose a good book to read. If you have books for pleasure reading and you want to share, feel free to add to the choices.

And, something NEW! Jigsaw puzzles are now also available. Take one, enjoy and return/keep. Feel free to add to the choices.

All items are set out in the atrium for you to enjoy. No need to sign out – just take and enjoy!

## BE KIND

*by Wendy Waugh*

If you read the daily devotions, you may remember my reference to a yard sign I see in Hillsborough. The sign says, "We don't have to agree on anything to be kind to one another."

There are now t-shirts, sweat shirts and yard signs available on a table in the church atrium. There is no cost for these items but, if you would like to donate to the cost of making them, the t-shirts are \$5.50, the sweatshirts are \$15.00 and the yard signs with stand are \$10.00. You may send donations to:



W. R. Waugh

22 Bushmill Court

Hillsborough NC 27278

My address is also in the church directory.

The t-shirts and sweat shirts are available in M, L, and XL.

There is an American flag on them to get the attention of people who have different belief without being political. The purpose of the shirts and signs is to start conversation without confrontation. We are Americans and we need to become the United States again.

Please feel free to give the shirts and/or signs to family members, friends, neighbors or others you know.

If there are no more shirts of the size you want, please sign the 'order more' with your name and what you want. The same is true for the yard signs. I can have more of all the items made.

## Stephen Ministers During the Pandemic

by Nan Treul

For the past two months, you have read messages about how many of us are struggling in different ways during this strange year. Isolated from family and friends, inability to travel to see loved ones, loss of income, schooling children at home, racial injustice, and loneliness, are just some of the challenges that many of us are experiencing.

We have communicated that sometimes a caring person and a listening ear can make a positive difference. A Stephen Minister does just this! A Stephen Minister does not resolve the problems, but is a compassionate listener who is willing to visit with you weekly, now via Zoom. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister regularly visit with you, or know another person in our congregation who would benefit from this, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul.

## Memorials Received

The following memorials were received by those as designated. Thank you.

### In Memory of Kaaren Johanson

to Durham Social Ministry by Bill and Garrie Kingsbury, Durham

by Pat and Morris Casper, Hillsborough

by Karl Johanson, Denver NC

by Cindy Snyder Fennimore, Durham

### In memory of Carol Sackett

by Robin Winfree, Durham

by Bonnie Cooper, Durham

by Larry and Phyllis Jenkins, Durham

### In memory of Carol and Jim Sackett

by Cindy Snyder Fennimore

### In memory of June Evans (mother of Bonnie Cooper)

by Tony and Penni Perrotte, Durham

## Our sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Hans Hillerbrand, who died on November 14, 2020 in Evanston, IL (Chicago). No funeral or memorial

services are currently planned.

## IN THE MAILBOX...

Dear Tuesday and Saturday Work Crew,

*On behalf of the preschool staff and families, thank you for your continued support of the preschool. This year has shifted much of our day outside and you have helped us set up tents and other outdoor needs to create safe and engaging outdoor classrooms. The weather has brought us many challenges so far and we appreciate your help setting our tents back up when they've blown over! Thank you for everything you do to keep St. Paul's going, especially during this pandemic.*

*With gratitude,*

*Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director*

\* \* \*

St. Paul's Family,

*A warm thank you for the many cards, notes, and flowers we have received in remembrance of my Mom's passing. I so appreciated knowing our family was in your thoughts and prayers. A special thank you to Women's Connection and the Stephen Ministers for the lovely baskets. And finally, much love to my good friends from our St. Paul's lunch bunch who have been a constant support.*

*Fondly,*

*Bonnie Cooper*

\* \* \*

*Jan and I wish to express our gratefulness and thanks to The Women's Connection Group, the Stephen Ministry Team, Pastors Anderson and Highben, Vicar Judy and all of our friends at St. Paul's for your many acts of care and kindness. Your support of Jan through her medical issues, and for both of us during the illness and death of David's brother Byron has been deeply appreciated. We look forward to the day when we can worship together without fear and precaution, and for face-to-face fellowship in the love of Christ.*

*Shalom,*

*David and Jan Franzen*

## Change of Address

David and Jan Franzen

7 Boardman Court

Durham NC 27705

Home phone changed: 919-384-2895



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

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Durham NC  
Permit No. 600

## Important Congregational Announcements

### Congregational Meeting

On December 13, the congregation will hold its annual meeting to vote on the 2021 budget and new members of the congregation council. The budget is shared on an insert in this publication as well as the candidates for Council. If you would like to receive a paper ballot, please inform the church office by December 8.

### Information Sessions

You are invited to learn about the proposed 2021 budget and the candidates for next year's council by participating in one of our Zoom information sessions:

- 12:00 noon on December 6 or
- 9:00 am on December 13

Voting will take the same form as it did when we called Pastor Amanda Highben in May. The meeting will be called to order by an email message on the morning of December 13. The message will include a link to a Google survey where you can cast your vote. The meeting and the election will close at 8 pm.

### Sale of Damascus House

Wildflower Cottage will close on the purchase of Damascus House on December 2. This closing will fulfill the contract approved by St. Paul's congregation in December 2019. Wildflower will continue to rent space from St. Paul's for 6-8 months while they renovate the house in preparation to move the program there.

## Lutheran Marriage Encounter

[Godlovesmarriage.org](http://Godlovesmarriage.org) has a wonderful opportunity to refresh, re-energize and reconnect with your spouse. A virtual Marriage encounter weekend is scheduled for January 29-31 or February 12-14, 2021. The casual, "unplugged" atmosphere of this online experience will help you and your spouse learn and practice unique

loving, and effective communication techniques that will open up a new, more joyful way to communicate for the rest of your lives.

You can participate from the comfort of your own living room using Zoom.com video conferencing with your computer, laptop, or tablet!

You will need to provide a distraction-free environment. It's a good idea to give your children a weekend away with relatives or friends. Or you can even go to a hotel together for this weekend experience! (Just be sure to check that you will have a good wi-fi connection, an option for getting food quickly for your meals, and that you can stay until the experience ends at 3 pm on Sunday.

Need more information? Learn more about who Marriage Encounter is for, what happens, FAQs, and Lutheran Marriage Encounter: [GodLovesMarriage.org](http://GodLovesMarriage.org)

## A Multitude of Heavenly Hosts

The angels and creches are set up in displays as a gift for the congregation from the CCG and Tina Bessias, Morris Casper, Pastor Scott and Vicar Judy. They are from personal as well as church collections. Curtis Chi has added his talent by taking photos of the display which can also be seen on our website ([stpaulsdurham.org](http://stpaulsdurham.org))

under photographs. However, if you can find a way and time please stop in for a moment to do a personal acceptance of this gift.

