

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*September 2021*

## **Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's**

This beautiful reflection was written by John Foreman, one of our Stephen Ministers. It is a thoughtful view of what it means to be a Stephen Minister.

*I cannot stop your tears*

*But I can help dry your eyes*

*I cannot give you sleep at night*

*But I can listen to your fears in the morning*

*I cannot calm your mind*

*But I can hear your concerns*

*I cannot relieve the hurt*

*But I can share the pain*

*I cannot solve your problems*

*But I can listen to your worries*

*I cannot give you friends*

*But I can give you friendship*

*I cannot give you a loving family*

*But I can help you bear the scars*

*I cannot turn back the hands of time*

*But I can help you face the future*

*I cannot replace the lost memories*

*But I can enjoy with you those that remain*

*I cannot salve the grief*

*But I can sit quietly with you*

*I cannot walk death's path for you*

*But I can walk with you holding your hand*

*I cannot relieve your pain, remove your fears, or wash away your grief*

*But I can give you my presence.*



– John W. Foreman

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### *From the Pastor...*

The best laid plans of humanity were laid out for you last issue. I was so excited to announce that we would get back to normal. **NOT.**

You have already seen (I hope), that we are staying with one service until further notice. We just don't feel it is right to encourage gatherings of our children for Sunday School, and we are still concerned about fellowship gatherings for our congregation.

Currently, worship attendance in person is about 70 on Sunday. This includes people in Trinity Hall as well as the sanctuary. We are still getting a number of folk tuning in via Zoom and watching our recorded worship on Vimeo.

Beginning September 5, we will be using our new video equipment to broadcast the worship service. It has taken this long for us to get it to a point that we feel it will enhance the worship experience.

We are doing our best to help diminish the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We have made arrangements for Duke and the Durham Health department to provide us with some free home test kits. They are at the church office and will be available during the worship hour as long as our supply lasts.

Rally day events are cancelled and we will begin featuring a blessing of various ministries in September and offer those groups being recognized and blessed the opportunity to have a table in the hallway to showcase their ministry. So, watch the emails for the listing of ministries to be recognized.

Also, beginning the first Sunday of September, we will welcome our interim organist. Kathleen Stanford is moving to our area from Utah. She has been in the Chapel Hill area before and is a member of our local Guild of Organists. Please welcome her.

The congregation council is looking to rework our committee structures into ministry teams and we will be modifying our bylaws in the near future. Anyone with an interest in helping with the bylaws review, please contact the pastor.

Please continue to pray for this congregation and to bear with us as we make decisions on regathering.

Peace,

Pastor Scott

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### *From the Vicar...*

Two weeks have already flown by since I began ministry with the people of St. Paul's! I first want to give my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the deep generosity and kindness you all have shown me in your vicar "pounding." Whether gift cards, paper towels, or

lovely conversations, I am simply overwhelmed (in a good way!) by the love you have shown me. It has also been such a pleasure to meet you and begin to know each of you on Sundays and throughout the week. It is clear St. Paul's loves their vicars and takes this ministry of learning and formation seriously, and I am so thrilled to be able to join you in that ministry for the coming year.

Each Monday morning, Pr. Scott and I have shared private devotions, switching between different liturgies and texts. This past Monday we read and spent some time discussing Romans 8:31-39. In short summary, St. Paul says "For I am convinced ... *nothing* will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Most of the time, we hear these words of comfort read at funerals and memorial services. But these words have as much comfort for our daily lives, not just times of mourning. These words speak to our anxiety, stress, fear, and self-worth. Reading the news each day has become an ever more stressful activity for me and, I imagine, many of us. Some of us may be struggling with identity, who we are, who we want to be both for ourselves and for the people in our lives. The pandemic is still disrupting our life when we thought we'd be free from it by now. And some of us simply woke up on the wrong side of the bed and no amount of coffee can cure our grumpiness.

What St. Paul reminds us of is that, even with all these parts of our lives and as painful as they can be, the love which God gives us in and through Jesus never fades. We are always connected by that love: in baptism, at the Lord's table, and together as a community of Christ. It is a love we encounter in prayer and devotion, family meals, laughing with friends, and enjoying nature. The love of Jesus is so pervasive we simply cannot help but live in it always. Luther was so convinced of this he suggested when we wash our face in the morning the water is a reminder of our baptism! My hope is that as I grow into my role as your vicar and you continue to be the faithful community that you are, we can constantly remind each other and share in the love of Christ. And for that love we can rejoice and say, "Thanks be to God!" and Amen.

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### **Duke Lutherans: We're Back!**

Greetings beloved St. Paul's family! As I write this on the second day of classes at Duke, I'm filled with excitement, joy, and hope for all God has in mind for the Duke Lutherans this year. Even now we're preparing for our first Evening Prayer and Fellowship

Dinner of the semester this Sunday night, Aug. 29, and are eager to meet new and returning undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. We are thankful, I too, that Duke is once again allowing us to worship in-person (in the York Room at the Divinity School), though we will continue to wear masks, maintain social distance, and share meals outdoors. As always, please continue to keep the safety and well-being of the students in your prayers.



I'll have lots more to share in the October issue, but for now I'm going to allow these pictures to speak for themselves!

*Sophomore Christina Sigler enjoys a Locopop at the Protestant Campus Ministries tent during Orientation Week.*



*Pastor Amanda hosting a table (together with Martin and Katie Luther bobble-heads) at the Graduate Student Resource Fair*



*Pastor Amanda with the Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Methodist campus pastors (Sam Laurent, Libby Boone, and Dave Allen) during O-week.*

*Dare to hope with us this year, dear ones, and pray that God will bless, uphold, and guide the Duke Lutherans and all students in the days and months ahead. Know, too, that I will never tire of saying how grateful I am for your dedication to the vital work of campus ministry. For over 80 years, Duke Lutherans have walked with students and young adults through the joys and challenges of campus life and young adulthood, rooting them in God's boundless love and grace and nurturing them to become lifelong followers of Jesus. Thank you for making it all possible.*

God's peace, Pastor Amanda

## Preschool Pitter Patter



*by Amanda Stoen*

We are excited to begin our 2021-2022 school year on Tuesday, September 7! Like last year, we will implement COVID-19 procedures and protocols based on the Childcare Strong NC

Public Health Toolkit provided by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Our focus is to provide a safe learning environment for our children and staff. Much of our school day will be spent outdoors in our wonderful outside spaces. Our teachers learned a lot about how to teach preschool outside and we are able to use those skills right from the start this year.

Teachers will continue to create lesson plans, offer literacy, math and science activities, support children's social and emotional development and create a warm and inviting preschool experience. Our outdoor learning environments stimulated children's learning in new ways last year and we are excited to continue these ways this year.

This year, we will offer preschool for children 10 months through 4 years old. We have an incredible staff who is excited to return to the outdoor classrooms and continue teaching young children. We ask for your prayers as we embark on our upcoming school year.

Lastly, we appreciate all of the support from St. Paul's members. One easy way you can support the preschool is by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card. When you link your card to St. Paul's Preschool & PMO, we will receive a portion of your purchases from Harris Teeter. The Harris Teeter account number is **3049**. You can link in any store or online and you do not need to be a preschool parent to link your card.

## Council Corner

*by Claire Cooney, President*

Greetings from Church Council! Thanks to everyone who joined us on August 15 to discuss the future of St. Paul's committees. It was an important time to come together and hear from each other. Since then, a subgroup of Council has met to think about our committee structure and what could be enhanced. We'll talk more about these ideas during our September council meeting. Council approved a contract with Storedtech, an IT company, to help us improve any gaps we have in cyber safety on all the church computers. Wishing you a happy end of summer!

## Nurturing Committee



Two months ago when we were basking in the glimpse of a post-vaccination respite, a verse of the famous Beatles song “Here Comes the Sun” about “the smiles returning to the faces” would have been a Rally Day 2021 celebration. However, at the present moment, Rally

Day is not to be, due to health concerns. The faith filled members of St. Paul’s family know that the joyful refrain of the song affirms our knowledge that “here comes” our Son. Always and forever.

Throughout these many Covid months, the Food Ministry provided frozen meals to those recovering from surgery, or illness. The card ministry sent out greeting cards for illness, sympathy, or just a “thinking of you.” The dedication of the nurturing ministers has been a blessing!

During the months of Covid, many aspects of the Nurturing Committee, such as visitation, were shuttered. No visiting or personal contact. Church council created the calling committee as a way to stay connected to the family of St. Paul’s during this difficult time. Dedicated volunteers even now continue to call members with a friendly phone chat.

In acknowledging the isolation that continues for many, a new branch of the Nurturing Committee has formed. Combining visitation ministry and calling ministry, the NEW ministry is named BE-FRIEND. The goal of this new ministry of Nurturing is to build connections among the St. Paul’s family. It may be that you have already established a friend relationship in those that you have been calling or you may be lonely and just want to have a friend to come for “tea.” You may be concerned about health safety in venturing into group settings, or you may know of someone who could use a new friend just to chat and laugh together. YOU may want to be a friend. YOU may want a friend. It is hoped that a weekly, or at least two times a month contact with a specific new friend could become an opportunity for connection. A friendly call, or sharing an afternoon coffee or tea will uplift any heart.

There will be some Be-Friend resource ideas for anybody to use. It can be a fun reason to call and say “I picked up this magnet at church, and I want to share it with you.”

If this is something that you are interested in, please contact Janet Seiz or Marcia Redman.

## WCPE Appeal

During the past year, the corona virus postponed St. Paul’s annual appeal in support of “Sing for Joy” a radio program of sacred music, aired by WCPE and their website, [theclassicalstation.org](http://theclassicalstation.org). Now we have an opportunity to restart our appeal and to reach the \$1000.00 goal so that St. Paul’s can continue to be named on the air, as a sponsor of the WCPE show.

Donors should send a check made out to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church but delivered to Hitch Havill at 12075 Morehead, Chapel Hill, NC, 27517. He will consolidate the checks and make sure that St. Paul’s sends our funds to WCPE. Hitch also can be reached at the church following our Sunday service.

## The Tuesday Work Crew is back!

If you wish to join in – here is their schedule: They meet for Bible study on Tuesdays at 8:45-9:30 am in Trinity Hall. Then at 9:30 until noon (flexible on ending time), they perform needed tasks around the church. It can be anything from setting up or taking down tables and chairs, doing monthly/quarterly scheduled tasks which involves the elevator, fire alarm, emergency lights, etc. They also put together furniture, and do minor repairs if it falls in their comfort zone. Sometimes they go out to lunch. Feel free to stop by!

## Increase in cost for Altar Flowers



As you are aware, many items are seeing an increase in costs, and flowers are one of those increases we are faced with.

Beginning September 1, our weekly costs for Altar flowers will be \$80, which breaks down to \$40 each vase (up from \$30 each). We have tried to keep the price at a cost of one vase per recognition, but we are not seeing many Sundays with two recognitions which places us behind.

If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) and payment at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, please speak with a staff person.

## New Members Received

On Sunday, August 29, we received several new members to St. Paul's.

### Peter and Martha Anderson

Peter and Martha live in Durham.

### Megan Cunningham

Megan lives in Cary. She transferred from Christ the King in Cary. She is a Clinical Trial Assistant at IQVIA

### Connor and Karen Eber Davis

Connor and Karen live in Durham. They previously were at a Presbyterian church in Sarasota, FL. Connor is retired and Karen is an Advisor/Consultant.

### Katherine (Kati) Moore

Kati lives in Durham and has been singing in our choir for quite a while. She transferred from Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte. Kati is a Communications Specialist for the Society for the Study of Evolution.

### Emily Pauline

Emily lives in Durham and transferred from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Athens, GA. Emily is a Climate Risk Analyst for the Climate Service. She has played her cello at St. Paul's worship.

### Phillip and Lorrel Strom-Jensen

Phil and Lorrel live in Durham. Lorrel is a retired Lutheran pastor and has participated and led our worship at times.

Addresses, emails, and phone information for these new members are listed in the *Instant Church Directory*, available free on your smartphones. Information sheets on the app are available on the credenza under the monitor for both iPhones and Androids. They are also listed in the on-line directory found on our website (call the church office for the password).

## Support for Burton Elementary Students

Many St. Paul's members were extraordinarily generous when the families of McDougald Terrace had to evacuate their homes in January 2020 due to carbon monoxide exposure. By May 2020, when all the families were able to return home, school-aged children had to attend classes on-line because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of our congregation have tried to continue support for these families, many of whom

attend Burton Elementary School. Marilyn Bell Hawley introduced us to Ms. Tameko Piggee, school social worker and forward-thinking leader; Ms. Piggee is always looking for ways to support parents and improve students' attendance at school.

This note from Ms. Piggee gives us an opportunity to continue our support this fall. If you would like to contribute any of these items, please place them in one of the bins in the atrium; Bee Ellertson will see that they are safely transported to Burton. Thank you for any and all contributions!

### Student Needs and Incentives

- ☐ Reusable water bottles
- ☐ Computer bags
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Jogging pants for accidents (sizes 5, 6, 7)
- ☐ Underwear for boys and girls (sizes 5, 6, 7)
- ☐ Boy and Girl socks
- ☐ Disinfectant wipes and spray
- ☐ small hand sanitizer with silicone attachment
- ☐ Zip lock bags (sandwich size, quart, and gallon)
- ☐ Kid size masks
- ☐ School supplies (various composition books, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors, folders, colored pencils, highlighters)



### Staff Support

We have snack cart Mondays since the staff are confined to their rooms and we would love donations for the cart.

## St. Paul's Readers Resumes

St. Paul's Readers invites all readers to join us for our next meeting on Thursday, September 16, at 3 pm. We plan to gather in Trinity Hall, widely spaced apart, for our discussion. Our selection 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. This book is wonderfully crafted and should have broad appeal to sleuths, history lovers and readers in general.

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.

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

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## Costumes for Dress Up or Halloween

Looking for a Halloween costume or just want to play dress-up? Our granddaughter has a large collection of dance recital attire we would like to share! There are costumes and accessories for each. We will bring the collection to church on Sunday, Sept. 26 and they will be available right after service for any child interested. The \$5.00 donation for each ensemble will go to the support of children from Burton Elementary School. Please share this info with anyone who might be interested. Questions? -- contact Marcia Redman, 919-797-0501.

## Katherine Circle

Dear ladies of St. Paul's -- much discussion has been held regarding beginning to schedule Katherine Circle meetings again. Sadly, the decision has been made to wait and see what any exposure looks like in a couple months. We are anxious to get together, but for now, we will continue to hold you in prayer and re-evaluate when church begins to open up.

Blessings, Phyllis, Diana, and Marcia

## Prayer Partner

*by Marcia Redman, Coordinator*

Please continue with your present prayer partner until the restrictions of Covid are lifted. So sorry that we cannot meet for now to draw a "secret" prayer partner's name, but it is hoped that you will continue praying with your partner you have had. If anyone would like a prayer partner going ahead, please contact Marcia Redman.

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study will resume on September 16. We will study *Mere*



*Christianity* by C. S. Lewis. Pastor has purchased copies of the book which are available in the foyer. Plan to join the discussion on Thursdays, 10:30-11:45 am. The Bible Study will be in-person in the Conference Room as well as Zoomed to those who wish to study at home.

## Young In Spirit

*by Marcia Redman, Coordinator*

Although alive and well, Young In Spirit is still in "isolation" for now. Several have asked when we can get together again, and the same people are saying that they aren't ready yet. When church begins to open up with the many activities we all enjoy, we will begin to schedule our monthly Young In Spirit get togethers again. Stay posted!

## Golf Outing

*by Warren Pusak*

*Friends of St. Paul's Golf*

*Committee*



The next scheduled Golf Outing will be on Monday, September 13th, at 2:00 pm at The Crossings here in Durham. We tried getting together a few

weeks back but that never materialized as the day we scheduled, only two of us were able to go and the thought of 100 degrees and high humidity prompted us to cancel.

Please help to recruit golfers as we are behind on where I thought we might be at this time as far as donations for Camp. It would be nice to go out there with two foursomes and really catch up. As always, if anyone has questions or concerns, please let me know with a text to 919-219-4090 or drop me an email at wrpusak@aol.com.

Thank you in advance and I'd love to hear back from you about coming out on the 13th!