

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2023

Tuesday, February 21 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 pm in Trinity Hall



SHROVE TUESDAY

It's Shrove Tuesday, so what exactly does "Shrove" mean? And why are so many people eating pancakes today? Pancakes were traditionally eaten on the day before Ash Wednesday because they were a way to use up eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. Of course, in America, this day is more popularly known as Mardi Gras, which is "Fat Tuesday" in French. It is the same idea: the last day to eat "fat" before Lent. Come join us for pancakes, sausage, applesauce, and fellowship.



Ash Wednesday Services – February 22

12:00 noon - Brief communion service, imposition of ashes, and healing liturgy at the end of the service

7:00 pm - traditional Holy Communion service with the Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday Nights during Lent – March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

▶ 6:00 pm Suppers in Trinity Hall

▶ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship

(Live stream link: <https://vimeo.com/event/2806391>)



If you wish to help with the Lenten Meals, please contact Martha Dahl, she is looking for assistance in cooking, serving, and cleaning up. Our midweek worship will cover biblical texts that use female imagery or feature female characters, helping us to see Christ through the eyes of the women in the stories.

Durham Jazz Orchestra - Saturday, February 25 at 7 pm



Time again for our fabulous Big Band Bash and dessert pot-luck. Come and enjoy the sounds of the Durham Jazz Orchestra, an 18 piece big band plus vocalists. Our own Larry Grovenstein and Curtis Chi are part of the Orchestra. Their music will have you ready to dance and we will be accommodating – the dance floor will be open to anyone. Bring along a dessert to share if you wish and we'll celebrate with wine and beverages.

The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Amanda Spangler, Vicar

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

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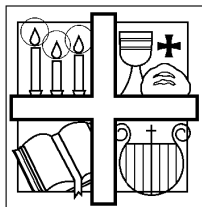
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chrhugg@charter.net

From the Pastor...

Seasons come and seasons go and in the midst of winter we will make the switch to a new setting of the worship service beginning in Lent. That's right, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. That means we will rejoice together on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st with pancakes, sausage, and many good and delicious treats.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Lent, February 26, we will switch to Setting 5 of the ELW. Since I have been your pastor, we have not used this setting. But, many of you long lived Lutherans will remember it from previous hymnals. It is a traditional setting that should bring back memories. For those not familiar with it, I think you will find it sing-able and fulfilling.



During Lent we will continue our tradition of noon and 7 pm Wednesday worship services. The noon service will be a short communion service, similar to what we do for Croasdaile. We will add a healing liturgy at the end of the service and also add imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. The 7 pm Ash Wednesday service will be a traditional Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes. The rest of the evening worship in Lent is being prepared by Vicar Amanda and I am sure she will have something to say about those services in her article this month.

February will also bring us the great joy of once again hosting the Durham Jazz Orchestra for a night of musical fun and dancing on February 25th. The congregation council has approved serving wine at this event. So come for dessert, fine music, and fellowship. The fun begins at 7 pm. Two of our members play with the orchestra, so come and support Larry Grovenstein and Curtis Chi.

Lent is a time of penitence and repentance. It is a time when many of us give up something as a way to offer sacrifice or to cleanse our lives. Lent is also a good time to start a new practice, like daily Bible reading, prayer or maybe even journaling. I would challenge us this year to add a faithful discipline to our daily routine.

May the God of grace and hope guide you in this season.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

As we settle into our sixth month together, I am so thrilled to be a part of St. Paul's celebration of Black

History Month!

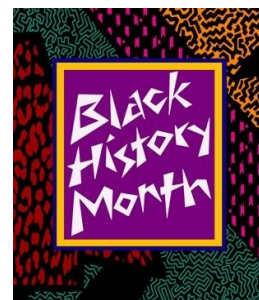
One of the most interesting classes of my seminary career was *Lutherans in North America*. The class, led by Dr. Susan McArver, examined theologies, movements, persons, and cultures present within North American Lutheranism, past and present. Together we read *Black Christians: The Untold Lutheran Story* by Jeff G. Johnson. We also dug around in the ELCA's Region 9 Archives, housed at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. We read firsthand narratives of Lutherans grappling with race – or choosing to avoid race, slavery, and all related implications. It was a steep learning curve. There was much we didn't know, many voices and experiences that have long been subsumed under doctrinal fights and European ethnic divisions.

During the Sundays in February, I will lead a four-week survey of the history of Black Lutheranism in North America, largely based on Johnson's book, archival findings, and a few firsthand accounts. We'll also study the ways that White Lutherans engaged and disengaged with Black Lutherans, and think critically about how history informs the ELCA's present day existence as one of the least ethnically and racially diverse denominations in the U.S. (Pew 2015). It is my hope that these sessions will celebrate the history of Black Lutheranism while giving us thought about the future of the Lutheran church – especially as we celebrate St. Paul's centennial this year!

Additionally, the Continuing Conversation Group has been working for over a year to bring in a speaker to help St. Paul's and our neighbors learn about Critical Race Theory. Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock will join us on Tuesday, February 28, at 7 pm to discuss what CRT is all about and how it affects us. Dr. Taylor Bullock is the founder of the non-profit "we are," which provides anti-racism training for children, families, and educators.

And the Reader's Group is reading *Going to School in Black and White: A Dual Memoir of Desegregation* by Cindy Waszak Geary and LaHoma Smith Tomocki. This dual memoir looks back at the experiences of two students, one white, one black, who found themselves at Hillside High School in Durham, NC, from different sides of a court ordered racial "balancing act." The Reader's Group will meet on Sunday, February 26, at 12:30 pm for a special discussion of the book with the authors! Join us, won't you?

March is Women's History Month, and Pastor Scott put me in charge of evening midweek Lenten



worship. Clearly these two things could not be a coincidence! This year’s midweek evenings, we will read biblical texts that use female imagery or feature female characters. Each of the preachers has been invited to approach their homily preparation from a feminist or womanist perspective, helping us to see Christ through the eyes of the women in the stories. We will have a variety of preachers and preaching styles. I pray we will all hear the good news of Jesus Christ in a way that challenges us but also supports and equips us for this year’s Lenten journey.

*In God’s peace,
Vicar Amanda*

Follow the Path



Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. The Stations of the Cross will again be offered on Fridays at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. I hope that long time members are looking forward to seeing St. Paul’s beautiful collection of the Stations as they will be back up on the side walls of

the Sanctuary for the Lenten season. For those who are new, the Stations follow Jesus from Gethsemane to the tomb with visual depictions of his journey. On Fridays, you can join me to follow Jesus on this path with scripture and prayers that tell the Holy Week story. following Jesus on this path offers pause to contemplate our here and now. Please join me on any of these Fridays at noon during Lent: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Pastor Lorrel Strom-Jensen

Council Corner

Greetings from your 2023 Church Council. Council met January 7 for a retreat to get to know each other, learn our



responsibilities as Council members, and review and discuss the business of the church. Executive officers elected are: Maria Chi, President; Joan Albright, Vice-President; and Megan Cunningham, Secretary. We welcome new members to Council: Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, and Emily Pauline. Bee Ellertson, Tim Hoke and Jim Klausman round out the Council.

St. Paul’s faces significant challenges, but there is also much to be thankful for and to celebrate. God

willing, this year will see continued easing of pandemic restrictions. Visitors continue to come both in person and virtually by viewing the service and accessing the website. The Reopening Task Force led by Tim Hoke and Megan Cunningham will discern usages of spaces previously occupied by Wildflower Cottage. Several celebrations of our 100th year of worship will occur this year. New accounting software Realm will afford the Finance team a better tool to track financial blessings and expenses. Hopefully, the Time and Talent Summit held January 22 will bear fruit by inviting new talent to on-going ministries.

All-in-all, the Council is hopeful and excited about 2023. Feel free to reach out with questions or ideas.

*Grace and blessings,
Maria Chi*

49th Annual Durham CROP Walk

by Megan Cunningham



Everyone, the time has come to start thinking about the excitement to come on April 2, 2023. The 49th annual Durham CROP Walk will be taking

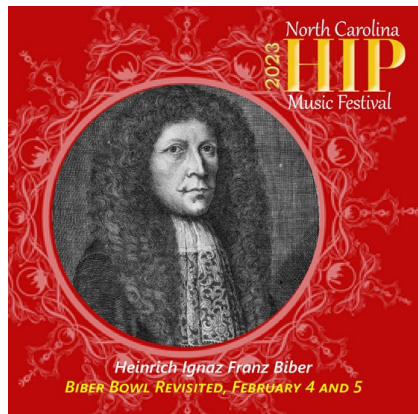
place at Duke University. Our congregation has been outstanding supporters and team members. We exceeded our \$3,000 goal last year and I am hoping we can do that again this year. If you would like more information about what the CROP Walk is, you can reach out to me directly at mcunni16@gmail.com or at church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to donate via check, please make checks payable to CWS or if to St. Paul’s put CROP Walk in the memo line. Parish Emails going out will update links as we get closer to the event. Help St. Paul’s make a difference to those in the Durham community which struggle with food insecurity.

WCPE

We thank all contributors who came forward with contributions to enable St. Paul’s to be part of WCPE’s “Sing for Joy” music time on the air. We at St. Paul’s have enjoyed their mentioning of our Congregation’s support which will now continue to be recognized throughout 2023.

Hitch Havill

2023 NC HIP Festival at St. Paul's



St. Paul's will be one of several venues for the 2023 NC HIP (Historically Informed Performance) Festival. Mallarme Music presents the music of Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber. Biber was a master of stringed

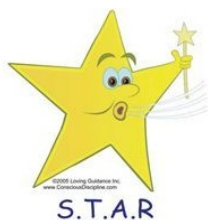
instruments and wrote the 15 Mystery Sonatas that chronicle the life of Christ through music for violin and continuo. The entire schedule, along with ticket prices, can be found here:

<https://www.mallarmemusic.org/hipmusicfestival-org/>

For the opening recital on Feb. 5, the festival has extended a discount coupon to our congregation. Use the code CC20 at checkout – only applicable for tickets purchased in advance and online. There will be a total of six concerts at St. Paul's during this festival. The dates are posted on the bulletin board.

Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen



Children encounter new experiences each day and sometimes those experiences can be challenging. Learning to breathe is the first step in how we teach children to calm their bodies. Bodies must be calm and

we must be present before we can deal with our upset feelings. a few breathing exercises that we use at the preschool include S.T.A.R. breathing, Pretzel, Drain and Balloon. S.T.A.R. means Smile, Take a breath

And Relax. Each time we say this, we take a deep breath in through our nose and out through our mouth. Slowing down our bodies allows us to access the problem-solving parts of our brain so that we can make appropriate and healthy choices.

Enrollment for Fall 2023 has begun. We offer classes for children ages 10



months - 4 years old. If you are interested or know of anyone who is, registration forms are available on our website, stpaulspreschooldurham.weebly.com. I am also offering phone calls, virtual or in-person tours throughout our registration period. Registration opens to the community on February 1. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know.



In the mailbag...

Dear members of St. Paul's,

Thank you very much for the Christmas cards and cards throughout the year that have been sent to me at Trinity View in Arden, North Carolina. All communications from and with you is very much appreciated.

With love, Ida Elliott

Memorials Received

We thank everyone for their generous donations to our Memorials Fund.

- ✚ In memory of Barbara Shade to the Stephen Ministers Fund by Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill
- ✚ In memory of Tony Perrotte to the Stephen Ministers Fund by Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill
- ✚ In memory of Arloa Bittikofer to the Memorials Fund by Bess Line, Durham
- ✚ In memory of Charles Ellertson to the Stephen Ministry Fund by Nancy Treul, Chapel Hill

Offering Statements

The 2022 annual giving statements have been mailed. If you have a question regarding your statement, please contact one of the co-financial secretaries, Phil Hart (psbhart@gmail.com) or Rod Runestad (rodrunestad@gmail.com).

Growing Thru Grief

Growing thru Grief offers help and support to people grieving the loss of a loved one. We are a coalition of religious and civic organizations which have been serving people since 2013. We offer education and small group support each week.

We meet at St. Paul’s each Tuesday. First time attendees must show proof of covid vaccination and booster(s). Masks are optional. We ask people to come at 4; the program begins at 4:30, and all will end by 6. Please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org if you have questions.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!! Help Stock the St. Paul’s Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!



THANK YOU! As of the end of December, your amazing generosity helped us deliver a total of 619 packages and 668 pounds of pasta to the Parktown Food Hub! You have helped to

meet a vital need that keeps growing. Please continue to add a package – or two – of dry pasta to your shopping cart to support this important community ministry and keep the St. Paul’s Pasta Shelf well stocked. The Women’s Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze.

Receptivity to Care from Stephen Ministry

Most people are much more open to giving care than to receiving it. When giving care, we feel stable and secure. When receiving care, we can feel like we’re acknowledging weakness, insecurity, and vulnerability.

As a result, there are many people who, though they really could benefit from a fellow Christian who would listen and care for them, instead tough it out on their own.

But God did not create us to be independent. We were created to be interdependent. God’s Word is clear on this. the New Testament includes more than 50 verses that contain the words “one another” – “love one another,” “encourage one another,” “build up one another,” and “pray for one another.” That means it’s



reciprocal; in addition to loving, encouraging, building up, and praying for others, we are to allow other people to do the same for us!

God does not intend for us to suffer alone. Jesus promises, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

That’s why we have Stephen Ministers. Many of them have been on the receiving end of care in their lives. they know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follow. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God very much desires you to have.

But many people may need help overcoming the barrier to accepting care. So if you find someone who is hurting and could benefit from having a Stephen Minister to walk with them, encourage them to give it a try, and seek their permission to pass their name along to Pastor, Kim Hoke, or John Foreman.

Or, if you find yourself facing difficulties in life, be open to receiving God’s love and grace through another person. Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity for a confidential relationship with someone who will listen to and provide needed care and encouragement.

–Adapted from Stephen Ministries, St. Louis

Music Time for Children

Join us at the 8:30 am service on Sundays for music time with Ted Turner, our minister of music. Following the children’s message, all children (and parents) are invited to come sing some songs and have some fun in Whitesell hall during the sermon at the early service. They will return to the service after the singing to continue worship.

Child Care on Sunday mornings!

We have an attendant, Courtney, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She will be available during the 8:30 service through the 11:00 service. Care will take place in the Parlor which is the room between the atrium and Whitesell Fellowship Hall.

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Young In Spirit Wednesday, February 8 at 11:30 am

Our February get together is a “meet and eat.” Join us at 11:30 am at **Pomodoro Restaurant**, 1811 Hillandale, Durham, for lunch and fellowship!



It's a hot topic in education and politics. But what is Critical Race Theory and how does it affect me? Join the Continuing Conversations Committee on Tuesday, February 28 at 7 pm in Trinity Hall at St. Paul's, for a presentation by Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock, founder of “we are,” a Durham-based non-profit providing anti-racism training for children, families, and educators. If possible, please register in advance: bit.ly/CRT_rsvp
 Amanda Anderson

Love is Patient and Kind

February is a month of LOVE: hearts, flowers, and Valentine's Day card day. Whether it is love for your significant other, a parent, a child, or a friend, it is a day to let them know you care about them. Valentine's Day cards and thinking of you cards are provided for your use. Also, you will notice there are congregant names on the Caring Tree. Please choose a name and send a card. It is just a St. Paul's connection to St. Paul's brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a BE-FRIEND time. As you choose a St. Paul's name, you may want to connect with them by a friendly phone call. The goal is to connect, nurture, and care for the family of St. Paul's.

In addition to Valentine's cards, the Caring Tree is decked out as a “Corinthians Tree” with stickers and postcards with the beloved words about LOVE from 1 Corinthians: “Love is patient, love is kind.” As you choose a name, please take a sticker or postcard.

Nurturing Committee Ministry

Weekly Sunday Worship

We have two services: 8:30 am and 11:00 am, both using Setting One of the ELW. The 8:30 am service is in-person. The 11:00 am service will be in-person, live-streamed and recorded. The link to watch the 11:00 service live is:

<https://vimeo.com/event/1478223>.

The link to watch any services which have been recorded is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> then choose the service date or event you wish to watch.

St. Paul's Readers Meeting Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 pm

Please note the change of date and time for this meeting. We invite everyone to join us for our discussion of *Going to School in Black and White: A Dual Memoir of Desegregation* by Cindy Waszak Geary and LaHoma Smith Romocki. Marilyn Bell-Hawley is facilitating our meeting and arranged for the authors, Cindy and LaHoma, to join us! We have moved our meeting date and time to a **luncheon on Sunday, February 26 at 12:30 pm** to allow others to participate.

The setting for this book is Hillside High School in Durham, NC in 1970, the site of a court ordered racial “balancing act.” This dual memoir book tells of the experiences of two students, one white and one black. These teenagers literally embodied the implementation of desegregation policies only a few miles from our congregation. Their intertwining personal stories are part of a bigger story about America, education, race, and, ultimately, politics. The foreword to the book is written by the principal at that time, Dr. John Lucas, who is now over 100 years old and still lives in Durham. The authors are delighted that we are reading their book!

We are delighted to have this opportunity to learn about a pivotal time in Durham history from native Durhamites who lived through this time of change. We hope that their stories will help each of us as we move forward in this diverse community. Contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) if you have questions.