

CROSS CONNEC IONS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

October 2024

Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God

If you would like to make a recognition through the altar flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium for a form in the lower box. Sign-up for the days(s) you would like and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin. Payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, please speak to a staff person.

Growing Thru Grief

Offers grief support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. Meetings are at 4-6PM, all are welcome.

Oct. Schedule

Oct. 1	“Engaging with Grief” with Mandy Murphy
Oct. 8	“Surrendering to Grief, Part 1” with Mandy Murphy
Oct. 15	“Surrendering to Grief, Part 2” with Mandy Murphy
Oct. 22	“Transforming through Grief” with Mandy Murphy
Oct. 29	“The Path Forward” With bill Dahl and William Holloman

Oktoberfest, Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 pm

All are invited to join the fun at our annual Oktoberfest celebration on Wednesday, October 16, at 6:00 pm. We again will have live music by the Croasdale band The Rusty Pipes. Beer is generously being donated by the Bluschke's Der Nachbar. Menu will include sauerbraten, bratwurst, chicken schnitzel, many German sides and desserts. If you can help with the preparations or clean-up, please contact Martha Dahl at email: mjdahlhouse@gmail.com or phone: 847-612-6687.

Pastor's Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark

will continue on Thursday Mornings at 10:30am.

The Women of the ELCA is offering some information to consider this election year.

As we prepare for this election year it is good to think about our role in politics. If you are interested please go to this link: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Calledtobepolitical.pdf>

Recycling Tip:

You can recycle small Styrofoam items at Publix. They accept foam egg cartons and clean take out trays and cups. There is a bin in front of the store for these FOAM items, For more information check out www.publix.com

Anything With a Plug Recycling owner Dennis will bring his truck to Haverty's parking lot on Renaissance Pkwy for free/mobile drop off Saturday, October 19, 11 am-1:00

Much more than electronics is accepted, such as metal, large and small plastics, batteries. Check:

anythingwithaplugrecycling.com for more information on accepted things.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!

Help Stock St. Paul's Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

Donate boxes of dry pasta to the bin beneath the bulletin board in the Atrium. These boxes are given to hungry families at the Parktown area by the Food Hub. The Women's Connection Group is leading this initiative and it is accomplished through your generosity.

St. Paul's Readers Thursday October 17 at 3 pm

We invite all readers to join us for our discussion of *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman. Our meeting is on Thursday, October 17, at 3 pm in Trinity Hall. Tim Hoke is leading the discussion.

British historian and journalist Rutger Bregman offers a new perspective on the past 200,000 years of human history, setting out to prove that we are hardwired for kindness, geared toward cooperation rather than competition, and more inclined to trust rather than distrust one another. "There is a persistent myth that by their very nature, humans are selfish, aggressive, and quick to panic." The author disagrees, making a convincing case that humanity is not so bad. He describes businesses without bosses, schools in which teachers assume that students want to learn, and local governments in which citizens exert genuine power wisely. Readers may wonder why these ideas do not spread like wildfire.

Do you have a person in your life who is always happy? That friend who always urges you to look on the 'bright side,' has a smile on her face no matter what the weather brings, and just simply lights up any room she walks in? *Humankind: A Hopeful History* is the book-equivalent of that friend. The book is bold and thought-provoking and encourages the reader to think about the world differently.

Our final meeting for 2024 is on November 21 when we will discuss *The Engineer's Wife: A Novel* by Tracey Enerson Wood Brooks. This book is the fictionalized story of the real couple who undertook the immense Brooklyn Bridge construction project.

We welcome suggestions for our 2025 reading list which will be chosen in the next several weeks. We try to select books from different genres to stretch our own horizons, as well as to appeal to a wide range of readers. So, if you have a favorite book that you think our readers would enjoy, please let us know.

Please consider joining us in October or for another of our meetings. We welcome you to come and check us out, even if you have not read the book. For questions or more information, please contact Katherine Trexler katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com.

Children's Sunday school is meeting each Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 AM, downstairs in the Genesis room (near the downstairs kitchen). All children are welcome and encouraged to join us for a time of Bible stories, crafts, cooking, and fun! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carole Ostrowski or Betty Hinshaw.

In Need of People to Lead Session(s) for Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School sessions started back up on Sunday, September 15th. We are looking for people excited to lead a session or 2 on our series “Dwelling in the Word” where we will be taking a biblical dive into how certain faithful words can be understood. If you would like to lead, please reach out directly to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com

Proposed 2025 Budget for St. Paul’s

The table below shows the proposed 2025 budget for the St. Paul’s. The Staff category reflects a 3% raise to cover the cost of living. The other categories have been increased or decreased depending on the projected expenses for 2024 and trends. Unless pledges for 2025 are higher compared to past pledging, this budget will likely exceed our pledges and projected other incomes for 2025. Please prayerfully consider your 2025 pledge in light of this budget.

Any questions or concerns about the 2025 budget can be directed to John Foreman or Angela Maine.

	2024	2025
STAFF		
OFFICE OPERATIONS	229996	240091
UTILITIES	42460	45111
BULIDING AND GROUNDS	45900	47300
COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY	62650	59900
EDUCATION	7375	6760
FELLOWSHIP	2000	2000
SOCIAL MINISTRY	6250	8500
CAMPUS MINISTRY	2750	2650
STEWARDSHIP	1000	1000
WORSHIP	400	1400
YOUTH	13050	13150
COUNCIL	0	500
COUNCIL	5000	5000
SYNOD	41883	43154
MORTGAGE	167379	167379
TOTAL EXPENSE	628093	635427

From the Preschool

It’s that time of year to re-link your VIC Card to the pre-school! Linked VIC Cards allow the preschool to received a percentage of your sales from Harris Teeter. Our number is **3049** and can be linked at any Harris Teeter or online. Friends and family may link too!

Jewelry Making

Joyce Veazey is offering an opportunity to learn jewelry making! Just bring yourself, If you are interested, contact Joyce to set up a time meet with her. Please refer to the church directory for contact info.

Please consider contributing to our morning devotions.

Devotions: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044cabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send devotions to vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Sign-up Genius Links

Please consider volunteering to assist in worship. Click the link to sign-up.

Sunday Worship: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1#/>

Available Opportunities: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistant, and usher.

UMD Volunteer Update

Amanda Anderson

Moving forward, we're back to the original time frame, 11:30-1:30 pm. We'll help with meal prep before serving lunch just as we did previously, **only four volunteers are needed**. To accommodate our monthly Habitat for Humanity volunteer shift, I changed the UMD shift to the fourth Saturday of the month starting in September.

Volunteers MUST sign up online to participate. You can Sign up here:

https://bit.ly/UMD_Signup

As always, please reach out to me with questions about the logistics of volunteering,

andersona1129@gmail.com . .

Our Afghan family support team is so grateful for your generosity in providing diapers for the past several months. We are once again requesting diapers in size 3, 4, and 5 for one of the families. In addition, we are looking for a few more women drivers to help with getting families to their medical appointments. The families we support live just a few blocks from St. Paul's. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sally Hart, sallyshart1@gmail.com (or by phone, see church directory).

PRAYER REQUEST EDITS

To streamline the process and help reduce errors, please visit the following link to add/remove people on the prayer list. <https://forms.gle/28wAjDpzQhEufuXu8>

PRAYER LIST

Prayers of the Church (Members)

Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazy, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Pat Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Anna Snyder, Fran Whitfield, Pat Cashwell, Susan Esposito, Charlie Bock, Amanda Highben., and Ron Brown.

Prayers of the Church (Friends)

Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner (Tony Perotte's Mother and Uncle), Diane Johnson (Penni Perotte's friend), Tim and Sue Williams (Friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (Sister of Anna Snyder), Sayge Lindsay (Grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (Sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (Mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (Friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki, Stevens, and daughter (Friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (Cousin of Kathy Anderson), Armenia and Artsakh (Friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (Parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (Mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (Brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (Friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (Sister-in-Law of Hudgins), Paul (Son-in-Law of Jan Hunley), Richard Dominick (Brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck and Ruth Parker (Aunt of Pat Casper), Holly Cashwell (Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (Friend of Waughs), George and Pat Rose (Friends of Debbie Fulbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Jack Taylor (Cousin of Dean and Marcia Redman), Debra Jetton (Sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (Niece of Marcia Wilson), Cole Cashwell (Grandson of Pat Cashwell), Dirk Davis (By Debbie Fulbright), Scott Duncan (Stepfather of Bill Elkin), Dave and Missy Pepper (Brother and Family of Joan Pepper), Chuck Johnson and Family (Husband and Family of Leslie Johnson), Vernice Knudsen (Mother of Ken Knudsen), Olga Niktin (By Patrick Chappel), Joan Mayfield (Aunt of Pat Casper), Vera Wiggins and Tony Jeeter (By Amy Elkin), Wini Robison (Aunt of Megan Cunningham), Sarah Jolly (sister of Marlene Coulter), Jeff Redman (Son of Dean and Marcia Redman), Emily Baumann (niece of Dean and Marcia Redman).

Rev. Scott Anderson, Pastor

Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Ashley Bowman, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Office Assistant

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Candace King, Preschool Director

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Facebook: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Help the Duke Lutherans Assemble Flood Clean Up Buckets

On Sunday night, October 27, the Duke Lutherans will be assembling Hurricane Clean Up Buckets for our Western North Carolina neighbors in need...and we'd love your help! Please consider purchasing an item (or two!) from our Amazon Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PABU8L77MCKG?ref=wl_share

Because the buckets will be distributed through Lutheran Disaster Response in the Carolinas, all items adhere to their guidelines and will be sent where they are needed most.

Please reach out to Pastor Amanda

(amanda.highben@duke.edu) if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping us to be the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors!

Updates from our Camps: Hurricane Recovery

Because I'm now serving on the NovusWay Ministries Board, I'm writing to provide an update about

Lutheridge and Lutherock as they continue to assess the full impact of the storm at both sites. The damage is significant and widespread, and access is restricted because of downed trees and damaged or washed-away roads. Most of the work right now is focused on cutting and clearing trees. Volunteers with chainsaws are needed, but groups must be self-contained (meaning they must provide their own food and water). If you or others would like to volunteer, please contact Mitzie Schaefer directly to schedule (803-413-7827, mitzie@gsbfr.com). You may also make gifts on the website (<https://novusway.org/by>) by selecting "where needed most." In the meantime, and as we wait for a clearer understanding of the damage and how best to help, we pray for God's strength, protection, and hope to sustain our incredible camp staff and everyone in western NC and Florida who have suffered such terrible loss.

Peace, Pastor Amanda

From the Vicar...

It's hard to believe I've been here two months already. In the time since Pastor Scott has been away, I've been blessed by an abundance of support in all forms. It seems like every time I start saying "I think I'm going to need a volunteer for this," I have multiple people signed up before I've even finished saying it. Now that we've had a need for assistance in all the steps of putting together bulletins and announcements, I've been pleasantly astonished at the willingness of so many people to help with each step.

In the past month I have had some great learning experiences. I got to start doing weekly chapel services with the preschool. Previous to this, I have done children's sermons and I have worked with children of various ages. But this has been my first experience talking to a large group of kids this age. I thought to myself, "it'll be just like a children's sermon - I'll ask them questions and they can participate." I immediately learned that with a large group of young children, if I ask a question, they all start talking at once! And I really wanted to hear everything they had to say, too! But... then I had no idea how to bring them back to the topic of discussion! I've realized that speaking to the preschool isn't going to be EXACTLY like talking to a handful of kids during a worship service. (Also, I just need to add, preschool teachers are superheroes.)

I was fortunate to be able to represent St. Paul's at the Durham Pride event, along with some volunteers from both St. Paul's and the Duke Lutherans. This was such an amazing opportunity and a joyous event. We had a lot of meaningful conversations with the people who stopped by our table. It's an honor and a blessing to be able to demonstrate to our LGBTQ+ siblings that Christianity can be inclusive and affirming - especially when so many have experienced hate and hurt from Christians.

(Continued)

I think my favorite moment in the past month has been Rally Day, the ministry fair. It was incredible to get to see all the different ministries of St. Paul's... and also to hear so many of you speaking so passionately about the work that you're doing. This community truly represents the spirit of service that underscores the command to love our neighbors.

I found that 1 Thessalonians 1:8 resonated with me: "...So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves..." St. Paul's has been a place, so far, where I've been fortunate to learn about what it looks like when people are committed to sharing not only the gospel, but their own selves. Thank you for sharing your selves and for the ways that you are sharing the love of God with others.

Ashley Bowman

Social Ministry Donates to Durham County Community Living Programs

St Paul's Social Ministry Committee is proud to announce the donation of \$1,500 to the Durham County Community Living Programs. This program, who in its early years used our church facilities, is celebrating its 50th anniversary of service to adults with developmental disabilities in the Durham community. We hope our gift can be beneficial in supporting the planned opening of their licensed day program.



A message from Pastor Sharon at Parktown Food Hub

Goodbye.

It's way too early for that, isn't it? Wasn't it just a couple weeks ago when I was choking up at my ordination because of the enormity of the tasks and opportunities before me? It seems like a short time but it was actually five years ago, and almost seven years since the vision for the Parktown Food Hub started to form. And yet, it is always way too early for goodbye when you love someone.

And people of the Parktown Food Hub community, I love you. You have been kind to me, graciously shared your joys and sorrows, and offered me positive feedback. You have also made suggestions that seemed daunting, walked with me through local and global crises, and then encouraged me to hang in there until it all came out in ways none of us could have imagined. You have strengthened my confidence as a leader and helped me to realize that this – the Hub – is where my whole life has been pointing.

My call has always been to be a founder, a starter of new things, a builder of things that did not exist before. With your help, we have done that at the Food Hub. The internal resolve and intrinsic motivation that I have developed over my lifelong work has served me well as we began this community place. I know that I will never forget the marvelous things I have seen as people have come seeking food, seeking community, seeking something they couldn't even quite identify.

(Cont.)

The Parktown Food Hub is my baby, the culmination of my life and work, co-parented with individuals and a community that is too extensive to even name. I must make special mention of Lisa, though, who has been by my side, supporting me, working tirelessly as co-founder, and walking many thin lines so well that it could only be born of love.

The time has come for me to turn this work over to someone else who will continue to love and cherish it – to love and cherish you – as I have. It was a difficult discernment process and hard to share my decision to leave with the Vision Board. They are now working on identifying the right path forward and I am so grateful that my time here has included working with such a marvelous, diverse, talented, and gracious group. I will continue working, leading the Food Hub as I have all along while working with the board on a transition plan. The final date of my departure will be no sooner than December 31, 2025 and will be finalized based on how to best serve my needs and calling alongside the needs and mission of the Parktown Food Hub.

I wish you well. I wish you prosperity and humility, laughter and tears together, friends and colleagues and strangers who enter your life for a lifetime, a season or a moment. Most of all, I wish you mercy and peace.

Thank you, community of the Parktown Food Hub. May God bless your every thought, breath, and step.

In peace and love,
Pastor Sharon Schulze

Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's

Stephen Ministry at St. Paul's is celebrating its 10 anniversary this year. Over this time St. Paul's Stephen ministers have helped or are helping over 50 people. Currently, there are 10 trained Stephen Ministers at St. Paul's – Kim Hoke, Nan Treul, John Foreman, Sally Hart, Phil Hart, Blaise Mercadante, Tracy Lischer, Bee Ellertson, Penni Perotte, and Joan Pepper.

What is Stephen Ministry? It is trained lay people doing one-on-one, distinctively Christian caring ministry to those going through difficult times in life. Examples are death of a loved one, significant medical challenges, problems of aging, divorce, loss of a job, relocating to a new city. Any life situation where a person needs help to get through it.

How do Stephen Ministers help? Stephen Ministers offer a caring, Christ-centered, non-judgmental listening ear so people dealing with grief, pain, loneliness, fear, and sadness can talk through their feelings in a confidential setting. Stephen ministers can't and don't "fix" people's problems, but do offer a caring presence. Most often, simply listening and affirming in a non-judgmental and confidential manner is also a person needs to get through these "rough patches" life has dealt them.

How do I become a Stephen Minister? If you are interested in exploring or becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Scott, Nan Treul, Kim Hoke or John Foreman. All it requires is a caring heart and

a willingness to serve others. It does require a period of training to prepare and equip you to become a good Stephen Minister. Every Stephen Minister will tell you that they became a better spouse, friend and person because of the training.

If you know of someone or are experiencing one of life's difficulties and would like a caring ear talk to about it, again contact Nan Treul, Kim Hoke or John Foreman.

Social Ministry Election

Why are we talking about elections at church?

Last month, the Social Ministry Committee hosted Kate Fellman, Director of the non-partisan group You Can Vote for a Lunch and Learn event. We heard about ways we can get training to be effective volunteers in election outreach: how to assist with voter registration; where to find information about the voter identification requirement, and about the schedules for early voting.

The 2024 election is a focus for the Social Ministry Committee this year. In case anyone is wondering whether “politics” has a place in our community of faith and worship, this column gathers some guidance from the ELCA.

This statement introduces the initiative called “ELCAvotes”:

“We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.

We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens.”

Back in 2013, the ELCA adopted a resolution for “Voting Rights for All Citizens:

“[It is] resolved, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to ‘promote public life worthy of the name’ by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens ...”

We are called to be advocates. We are NOT called to be partisan, nor to represent one candidate over another. We welcome your questions and your insights. That’s always true, of course, but it seems especially important to say it in an election season like this one. If you have

suggestions for ways that we can connect our faith with action, please get in touch with any member of the Social Ministry Committee.

Please check the table in the narthex for general information about the 2024 election. On October 6, we’ll be giving a meditation about ethics and elections during the Sunday School hour. Let us know what you think, and look for ways that you can help during this election season.

Bee Ellertson

What Does Civic Participation Have to Do with Christian Discipleship?

On October 6, the Social Ministry committee gave a presentation and update. They shared a short video from the ELCA: What Does Civic Participation Have to Do with Christian Discipleship? With Mindy Makant. If you’d like to watch that video, you may view it here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10111323/video/788805985>

What is Stewardship Pledging All About?

We are all blessed by God in different ways. He calls us to share our blessings - our time, talents, and resources - to care for His creation. Much of our sharing is through the ministries of St Paul’s. You sustain these ministries through your stewardship gifts.

Each year our finance team must plan a new budget for every ministry and to pay all the bills. This planning occurs before you give your first stewardship dollar. How can this be done accurately? We do it by adding your pledges for the upcoming year.

What’s a pledge? A pledge is an estimate of the money you plan to give to help sustain the ministries of St Paul’s. It’s not a donation or a contract. A pledge is given in faith.

Why does St Paul’s ask for pledges? Pledges are gathered to create the new budget. Counting all pledges establishes our best-guess of the church’s 2025 income. With an income estimate, we can build an operating budget and then assign dollars to each account.

You can see that if you are planning to give to St Paul’s in 2025, no matter how much, turning-in your pledge creates a much more accurate budget estimate for the finance team.

(Cont.)

How do I pledge? As a member of St Paul's, you'll get your pledge information very soon. When you've decided on your giving amount, turn-in your pledge card in one of these ways:

- Option 1: Fill-out your pledge card and hand it in during offering on "Pledge Sunday", Oct 22.
- Option 2: Drop your pledge-card in the offering basket on Oct 29, Nov 5, or Nov 12.
- Option 3. Drop by the church and hand it to the Pastor, Vicar, or the Secretary. If you miss them, drop it in one of their boxes in the distribution room.
- Option 4: Mail your pledge to the church.

How do I manage my actual giving? Here are some options.

- Option 1: Bring your gift to Church and place it in the usher's basket.
- Option 2: Create an automatic and secure giving account. Go to St Paul's website, select the "Giving" tab, then go to "Online Giving." Here you can set your gift-giving preferences.
- Option 3: If you already give online, remember to update your preferences as appropriate.

Please reflect upon how you can use your time, talents and resources in 2025. God is working through our actions to accomplish positive change around us. In this spirit, prayerfully consider what your financial pledge and gift to St Paul's will be in 2025.

The Stewardship Team

St. Paul's Quilters

St. Paul's quilters sent a batch of quilts to Asheville-area hospitals where they will go to children in need. Pastor Amanda, pictured here with Bess Line, blessed the quilts on their way out.



Join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's!

Interested participating in worship? Want to learn more about music? Or perhaps you simply want to keep up your musical knowledge and abilities. You should join a musical ensemble at St. Paul's! It's a great way to achieve all of these things, and be part of a community.

Choir and handbell ensembles will be resuming on August 28th and September 4th respectively. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, handbells from 6:30-7:15 and choir from 7:15-8:30. Ensembles normally perform at the 11:00 service but occasionally at the 8:30 service. Some ability to read sheet music is required for handbells. Ability to read music is also a plus for choir, but not required.

If interested, contact Ted Turner, director of music at music@stpaulsdurham.org

Rally Day 2024, What a success!



THANK YOU!! I am so happy and proud of how well Rally Day 2024 went. We had representation from 20+ groups and committees who had amazing displays. The turnout was fabulous and multiple groups were able to recruit new members. I would like to give an extra **THANK YOU** to Stacy, Megan, and Sarah Herring for all their help with set-up, assisting other groups with their displays, and clean-up.



Through Rally Day we are able to show off how we at St. Paul's live daily using our hands to do God's work. Check out just some of the different committee and group tables that were on display and if you see something you missed myself and council would love to get you in contact with the right person so that you can continue in your own ministry with God.



I know that quite a few people were unable to join us in the fun, so if you missed it, but would still like to join a committee or ministry group please reach out to either Megan Cunningham (mcunni16@gmail.com) or any council member, so that we can make sure to get in contact with the right leader/coordinator.



“The youth are at it again”

We have returned from New Orleans energized in our faith journeys and ready to take on the 2024-2025 school year. We were so excited that we were able to show off and talk about our time down in “The Big Easy” both at Rally Day and at September 18th, Wednesday night supper. Showing off the over 200+ pictures we took, and some of our way to awesome swag we brought home. Here are just a few fun highlights from our time, but for more stories you can talk to Joan Albright, Megan Cunningham, Megan Herring, Ben Hodges, Adsila Getz, and Sarah Herring:



1. We got to do and see things that were better than we could have imaged.
2. We ate some very yummy amazing food.
3. We enjoyed live jazz while waiting to have a New Orleans staple Beignets at Cafe Du Monde
4. We got to listen to some of today’s hottest Christian artist, while also getting to see and listen to some amazing speakers Tuesday - Friday night at the Mass Gatherings.
5. We got an educational lesson before being put to work at the Tulane University BioDiversity Center on our accompaniment day.

(Cont.)

6. We got to run all the French Quarter during an interesting scavenger hunt, then walk through a typical afternoon down pour of rain to enjoy worship with all the other congregations in the region 9 synods. Talk about eye opening with how many different locations are just region 9.
7. We were able to see and learn more about all the different things the ELCA offers for our group now and in the future.
8. We spent 24 hours in the New Orleans Airport ***NOT the highlight of our trip, but the most dramatic***
9. Brought home so much more stuff then we even believed possible. An additional t-shirt, water bottle, and more swag then we were able to truly count.
10. We got to meet so many unbelievably cool people that like us are routed in their Christain faith and love God



(Cont.)

THANK YOU to our entire St. Paul's family for allowing us to have this experience and bring back more than just memories, but a growth in our personal faith journeys that we not have even realized we needed. We also got to enjoy dinner and a bonfire with Stephanie and Ken Knudsen on Saturday September 28th, talk about a fun and sticky night, we made some new best friends with their 2 dogs and 1 cat, while also getting to feed their fish and try so very fresh off the vine yummy grapes.



We still have so many more things coming up like helping paint the inside of the outside Noah's Ark, work in the kitchen at Urban Ministry Durham, spend a Sunday afternoon after 11am service getting lunch and going to have fun at Boxcar Durham, as well as get to help some of the younger members of St. Paul's with cookie decorating while the working adult group makes the dough, then we will deliver the cookies to local fire stations. And yes we will get to enjoy some cookies as well.



Continue to be on the lookout on Facebook to see pictures from all our different fun activities and follow along with our growth and friendship.





2024 Souls to the Polls - SAVE THE DATE October 20, 2024

Have you ever taken the time to breakdown what Proverbs 31:8-9 says and how it can impact our divided world today? Proverbs 31:8-9 says “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.” Did you know that since the last presidential election in 2020, North Carolina has implemented voting laws that can present barriers to some citizens? For many years, our friends at St. Joseph’s AME church have organized a “Souls to the Polls” event on the first Sunday of early voting. This festive parade raises awareness about early voting and helps spread information about voting requirements and opportunities. You are invited!

Please join other St. Paul’s members on October 20th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. when, with flags waving, the car caravan will travel from St. Joseph’s to NCCU’s School of Law early voting precinct. (Since it’s Early Voting, you can cast your ballot without worrying about being at a specific precinct.) This caravan helps promote the importance of voting in such a polarized and dynamic election.

Help us support our friends at St. Joseph’s by coming out on October 20th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph’s is at 2521 Fayetteville St, Durham, NC 27707. Feel free to email Richard Smith at Sac-ceacco-chair@stjamec.org and Jacque Beatty-Smith at jmbeatty@verizon.net with any questions.

Creation Care

The “Anything With a Plug” truck will be at Haverty’s parking lot on Renaissance Pkwy on Saturday, October 19 from 11-1 for drop offs.

Besides electronics he will take metal and plastic items of various sizes. For a list of accepted items check anythingwithaplugrecycling.com

YOUNG IN SPIRIT

The Young in Spirit activity for October is 'Meet-and-eat' at the LOOP, 1800 Franklin Street, in the Eastgate Shopping Center. Join us for lunch at 11:30. All are welcome!
