

# Cross Connections



*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

*October 2023*



## **Oktoberfest - Wednesday, October 18, 2023**



Join us on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:00 pm for a fun Oktoberfest evening. To start, we will enjoy music from the Croasdaile "Rusty Pipes." They are a great band composed of their residents at Croasdaile. Get your German taste buds ready for a savory meal. This year we again welcome the Der Nachbar Bottleshop and Taps who will be providing us with a great assortment of beer and non-alcoholic beverages for the event.

If you can help with the meal in any way, please contact Martha Dahl at 847-612-6687 or by email at [mjdahlhouse@gmail.com](mailto:mjdahlhouse@gmail.com).

## **Trunk or Treat - Friday, October 27 at 6 - 7 pm**

This is a stellar fall event where you have a creative time decorating your trunk and the treaters come to your car in our parking lot. Trunk decorators (you don't need to have children to participate - just like trick or treat at your house), can arrive at the Pickett Road parking lot between 5:30-6:00 pm. This will allow time to set up decorations and have traffic completed before beginning the trunk or treating at 6:00 pm. Costumed Treaters will visit from car to car to gather their treats. We will end by 7:00 pm. Treats should be pre-wrapped and nothing home-made. Neighbors, friends, all are welcome to participate!



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Gina Schaefer, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director

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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...

We have so many members at St. Paul's that do so much for our congregation and for our community, I should probably thank each one of you in Cross Connections. I'd probably miss someone but I give thanks to God for faithful servants.

Every once in a while, one member stands out to such a degree that I feel they should be lifted up and given thanks on behalf of us all.

Larry Grovenstein is that person. Larry served for years on our finance team and served with care, love and faithfulness. Larry has quietly on his own saved this congregation money and helped fulfill our caring for creation mission.

Larry has single handedly rewired our lighting and brought our lighting up to the best current standards. Over the last several years, Larry has been at church multiple hours a week.

Below is a list of what he has accomplished:

- All incandescent and CFL/fluorescent and ballasts have been replaced with LED bulbs except the sky lights outside Trinity Hall. Ballasts have been removed or at least de-energized. All new LED's are double end powered. Regarding bulb quality, the goal is to obtain new bulbs with 50,000 hour expected life. All outdoor photo sensors and timers have been replaced as needed to be compatible with LEDs. The LED bulbs can be disposed of in regular garbage when they need to be replaced. Spare bulbs and batteries for Emergency Lights are available in the Property Room.
- Sanctuary (Complete) Chandelier lights – Flood lights – 4 foot Fluorescent – have all been replaced.
- The 6 foot bulbs in outside sign and 3 foot in bathrooms have been replaced.
- U-Tube (Trinity Hall and Staff Hallway) have been replaced with LED
- Sconces in Preschool Hall: Replaced with LED
- Brick Uplights in Sacristy – have been replaced.
- Emergency Lights – Complete

The rough count is 37 emergency light fixtures, 6 outside photocels, 2 outside fixture replacements, 4 inside fixture replacements, 451 fixtures rewired and over 1000 bulbs replaced.

Larry has worked diligently since 2017. On behalf of the congregation — THANK YOU!!!

*Pastor Scott*

## Greetings, St. Paul's!

I have been thrilled about many things these past few weeks.

Whether it's worship, the wonderful Wednesday night dinner we recently hosted, or just becoming more involved in the life of this congregation, it's been an exciting time at St. Paul's. Last week, I began Chapel time with the pre-schoolers – who are just as adorable as they are fun. Then, on September 28<sup>th</sup> I will start my study on Julian of Norwich which will be both online and in-person. We have also signed up six youth for national youth gathering next year! So, be sure to keep an eye out for more information about how you can support our youth and their adventures in the coming months.

However, by far, the things I am *most* excited for is the Facebook page! Yes! Facebook!

I understand not everyone uses Facebook, or is very active on it (guilty as charged, personally), but I truly believe it's an under-utilized resource for churches. Most churches see it as just a tool for evangelism and ministry, a way to show-off who the church is to visitors. Which is not wrong and is certainly one function of a Facebook page, but to me, Facebook can be so much more than that.

Facebook, and other social media, is a way to connect community. We see each other every Sunday, and sometimes more often than that, but Facebook is how we can 'see' each other even when we're not in the church building. We can learn about our ministry, our events, our lives, and our relationships. Social media is an opportunity to build relationship and show love for one another. So, not only can we connect to those outside of the church through Facebook but also to those *inside* the church.

And, best of all, it is completely free.

Facebook is like any other resource, though. One, it is a gift from God. Two, we are thus called to be good stewards of it, Three, we get out of it what we put in to it. For that reason, I have decided to invest some of my time to improving how we use our page. I hope it'll be something that you can join me on: even if it's just liking the page or a post, leaving a comment, or coming up with ideas for content, anything is welcome. My hope is that this will be just as exciting for you as it is for me.

*Vicar Gina*

### Life Together with the Duke Lutherans



The Duke Lutherans have experienced a Spirit-filled and joyful start this new academic year, as we've settled into our new home at the Duke Lutherans Center and grown in community with new and returning students alike. In addition to gathering every Sunday night for Evening Prayer + Fellowship Dinners, we've cheered on the Durham Bulls to victory, climbed the Chapel Tower at night, and shared in Dinner Church with our Presbyterian Campus Ministry friends (see pics)! And this October 13-15 we're headed to Carolina Beach for our annual fall beach retreat!

We're also excited to share that MDiv third year student Max Miller will be serving as our field education ministerial intern this year. During his time with us, Max will focus on worship planning, campus ministry administration, and helping the Duke Lutherans to foster a welcoming, trace-centered community for all students.

Thank you so much to the Duke Lutherans

DUKE LUTHERANS  
FIELD EDUCATION MINISTERIAL INTERN

**MAX MILLER**  
3rd year, Master of Divinity

Introducing..



Duke Lutherans  
Called to life together

Committee and everyone who's helped us to have such a wonderful start this year! We are especially thankful to all those who graciously gave to our Back-to-School Appeal. The Appeal was successful because of your generosity, and we could not be more grateful for your commitment to Lutheran Campus Ministry at Duke.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Amanda

**The Rites of Ordination and Installation**  
for  
**Amanda Spangler**  
Saturday, October 7 ~ 5:00pm CT  
St. Paul, Mobile, AL

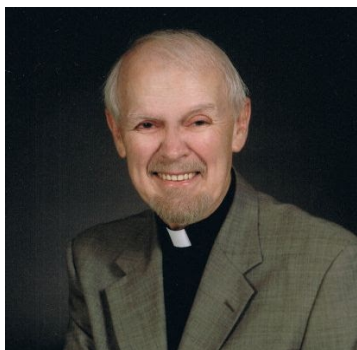


*By the Grace of God  
and with the affirmation of the people  
The Reverend Doctor Kevin Lyle Strickland  
the Fourth Bishop of the Southeastern Synod  
of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
will celebrate the Eucharist  
with the rites of Ordination and Installation of  
**Amanda Spangler**  
to the  
**Ministry of Word and Sacrament in**  
Christ's one holy, catholic and apostolic church  
on Saturday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of October  
two thousand and twenty-three  
at five o'clock in the evening, Central*

*St. Paul Lutheran Church  
6100 Cottage Hill Road  
Mobile, AL 36609*

*Your prayers and presence are request ed.  
Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process.  
The liturgical color of the day is red.*

*Amanda Spangler has been called to serve  
as Pastor and Redeveloper of St. Paul, Mobile, AL*



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

The Rev. Dr. Charles R. Huggins, 87, of Sanford, NC passed away peacefully at home on Thursday,

September 14, after a long well fought battle with dementia. He was surrounded by family and holding the hand of the love of his life.

Charles was born June 14, 1936, in Lenoir, NC, the son of the late Russell J. and Bleeka Carpenter Huggins. Shortly thereafter they moved to Hickory, NC where he spent most of his childhood. He was inspired by his grandfather’s sermons and decided to follow in his footsteps and become a third generation pastor. He obtained his Master of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.

In 1967 Charles accepted his second call as pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Sanford, NC where he would continue to serve for 32 years until his retirement in 1999. After retirement, Charles was an Adjunct Professor at Central Carolina Community College teaching Philosophy and Bible. He was also Interim Pastor for St. Paul’s, Durham, Christus Victor, Durham; Abiding Presence, Fuquay-Varina; and St. James, Fayetteville. He continued his ministry in retirement at St. Paul’s Lutheran as the Assistant to the Pastor where he again made very special lifelong friends. Upon leaving, he was honored as Pastor Emeritus at St. Paul’s Lutheran.

Charles is survived by his wife, Linda Cline Huggins; daughter Susan H. Grainger (Bill) of Clemmons; son Mark R. Huggins (Shawn) of Hickory; grandchildren, Meredith Chadwell (Ryan), Eric Grainger (Abby), Adam Grainger, Steven Grainger, Megan Duggins (Jason), and Brooke Huggins; great grandchildren Saylor Chadwell, Holden Chadwell, Tucker Chadwell, Nash Grainger, Hensley Grainger, Riggs Grainger, and Ellie Mason.

A memorial service was held on Friday, September 22 at 11:00 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sanford. Memorial contributions can be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 525 Carthage Street, Sanford, NC 27330 or to the Dementia Society of America.

### Preschool Pitter Patter

by Amanda Stoen

We are about one month into our new school year and the children are settling in well, making new friends and learning their classroom routines. Our



teachers spend the first six weeks of the school year getting to know the children and teaching them new skills such as asking for a turn, using gentle touches and how to ask a friend to play. Using Conscious Discipline, we focus on what we want the children to do, rather than punishing them for doing something wrong. We



paint a visual picture for them to see how to walk safely down the hall, how to sit as a group in circle time and how to use materials such as scissors safely.

We are enjoying spending time in the woods as well! Recently, we had a shed built in the woods so that teachers can easily access materials in the woods



without carrying so much back and forth. Up next, we are planning to create a safe boundary in the woods so that children learn where they can go and where they can’t. We will also add a

few benches for sitting and some tables for our science lab. This space will be used for several different areas including a nature art space, building areas, climbing and swinging space, a gathering area, a playhouse/kitchen space and dirt-digging area.

As we create the different areas in the woods, we are planning and choosing elements for durability and low maintenance. Natural areas allow for free exploration and experimentation. Children are

encouraged to get messy, use their imaginations, experiment with a variety of natural objects and feel a sense of accomplishment and personal mastery over the environment.

Lastly, if you haven't had a chance to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to the preschool, there's still time. 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. Thank you for your support of the preschool!

### Stewardship – What is Pledging All About?

**STEWARDSHIP IS THE BELIEF THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS GIVEN FROM GOD, AND BEING SO BLESSED, WE'RE CALLED TO SHARE OUR GIFTS.**

We are all blessed by God in different ways. God 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 council must plan a new budget for every ministry. This planning occurs before you give your first stewardship dollar of the new year. How can such a thing be done accurately? We do it by gathering stewardship pledges.

#### WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

A pledge is your estimate of the money you plan to give to the glory of God 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 2024 budget. A total of all pledges received establishes our best guess of the church's 2024 income. With this income number, we can realistically assume what the operating budget will be and then can assign dollars to each ministry's account.

You can see that if you are planning to give to St. Paul's in 2024, no matter how much, turning in your pledge helps create a much more accurate budget planning document for the Church.

#### HOW DO I PLEDGE?

As a St. Paul's member, you will receive a

letter and your pledge card very soon. When you've decided on the support you plan to give, choose the pledge option that is right for you:

- ▶ Option 1: Fill out a pledge card and hand it in during the offering on Sunday, Oct 22.
- ▶ Option 2: Can't make it Oct 22? Leave your card in the offering on Oct 29, Nov 5, or Nov 12.
- ▶ Option 3: Drop by the church and hand it to the Pastor, Vicar, or the Administrator. You can also drop it in the Finance drop-box in the staff hall outside the finance office.
- ▶ Option 4: Mail your pledge to the church.

#### HOW CAN I MANAGE MY GIVING IN 2024?

Everyone handles gift-giving differently. Here are some options in hopes that one works for you.

- ▶ Option 1: Bring your gift to Sunday Worship and place it in the usher's offering 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.

#### GIVE THOUGHTFULLY AND JOYFULLY

Please reflect upon how you can use your time, talents, and resources in 2024. 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 2024.

*The Stewardship Committee*

## St. Paul's Youth Group Latest News

Now that the 2023-2024 school year has started, that also means that the St. Paul's youth group is starting to get going with a lot of fun activities and preparing for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The youth group is available for all youth between 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2023-2024 school year.

We are so excited that we have 6 youth and 2 adults registered for the National Youth Gathering which is taking place July 16-July 20, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. We are already starting our preparations. We will begin to plan our fundraising ideas,

understanding the theme, getting to know New Orleans, and putting together our swag with t-shirts and pins. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during the Sunday School hour will be devoted specifically to group prep for the gathering, but all youth are welcome to join us.

We have our first lock-in scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023 starting at 6 pm and we will be having at least one lock-in a month so that we can keep the fun going. The lock-ins will be moving to Friday nights in December and will start with a fun activity such as putt-putt, bowling, or Frankies, just to mention a few.

We will also be having youth Sunday School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month where all youth can dive deep into their faith and get a strong understanding of the Lutheran background. Our group will meet downstairs in the youth room at 9:45 am and will be done at 10:30 am.

If you have any questions about what is going on with this amazing group of youth, please reach out to Joan Albright or Megan Cunningham.

## Social Ministries Committee EXPAND/EXPLORE/EDUCATE

The Social Ministries Committee is continuing to make tangible strides in our re-organization progress, the “Re-Formation.” We are building upon our initial goals by striving to:

- 1) **expand** support for existing St. Paul’s outreach ministries
- 2) **explore** options for expanding St. Paul’s social ministry opportunities and
- 3) **educate** ourselves as a congregation about the most pressing needs faced by our Durham community.

We recently received updates from two existing ministries: the Refugee Support Team\* and Camp Destiny (Burton Elementary). Both groups are conducting a self-assessment to determine their most pressing needs and will share those needs with the entire committee once their self-assessment processes are completed .... and we’ll pass them along to you.

[\*Note: **The Refugee Support Team** already has identified one urgent need: **additional female drivers**. If you are interested, please contact Morris Casper for information.]

We also have two new “working groups: **Creation Care** and **Rise Against Hunger**. Details to follow – stay tuned!

September saw the return of St. Paul’s members

serving lunch at Urban Ministries! This ongoing outreach will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. See Amanda Anderson for details or go directly to the sign-up link: [bit.ly/UMD\\_Signup](https://bit.ly/UMD_Signup)

**Because ours is an on-going re-organization process**, we continue to welcome interested persons to become part of this committee! If you are interested in serving with this committee, or merely want to attend to see what’s happening, please contact either Joan Pepper or Pastor Scott. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm in Whitesell Hall. If you want to join the meeting by Zoom, here is the information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81503417125?pwd=aHBseTNvTmpeOHk0THZLVlBLcWtCUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 0341 7125 Passcode: 552857

## In the mailbag...

*Dear friends and family of St. Paul’s,*

*Thank you for your many expressions of sympathy following the death of my mother. During this difficult time, the cards, calls, gifts of food and honorary financial support of numerous worthy causes have been a source of comfort and encouragement – that you share my sorrow, yet are confident in the hope of resurrection.*

*With gratitude,  
Kathy Anderson*



Our sympathy to the family and friends of Jack F. Rouse, who died at Transitions Home Hospice Care in Raleigh on September 10, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen (Kathy) and two sons, Patrick and Peter. Pastor Scott officiated at his Memorial service which was held at Mitchell Funeral Home in Raleigh Memorial Park on Friday, September 19, 2023. Burial took place at Eastern Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Goldsboro, NC.

## Congratulations!

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, Christina Nesslage and Shawn Allred, were married at St. Paul’s, Pastor Scott Anderson officiating. Christina’s new address is:

7711 Oak Estate St  
Raleigh NC 27617

### Transfer and New Address

Bonnie Cooper has transferred her membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Bradenton, FL. Her new address is:

10606 Sea Pines Pl  
 Parish, FL 34219  
[cooperkd3@gmail.com](mailto:cooperkd3@gmail.com)

### Change of information

Jayne Baum changed her email to [baum4110@outlook.com](mailto:baum4110@outlook.com)

### PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

**Help Stock the St. Paul’s Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!** Please continue to add a package – or two – of dry pasta to your shopping cart to support this important ongoing 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. **St. Paul’s Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

### Sewing/Knitting/Crochet Ministries



The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to the local hospitals for their youngest critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber

Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

**RAFFLE:** The group has asked permission to raffle a quilt they created to raise money for their ministry. Tickets are \$10 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$40. This will enable them to purchase batting and some other needed supplies. Stop by the quilt display to purchase your raffle tickets - someone will be there after both Sunday services. The drawing will be held at Oktoberfest!

#### The **Dropped Stitch Prayer**

**Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet. Come join in, next time is Friday, October 27.



### Altar Flowers

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) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person. You can also find altar flower requests on our website ([stpaulsdurham.org](http://stpaulsdurham.org)) and look for “forms”. You are welcome to print those out and send them in with your payment for any weeks you choose.



### Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning Thursday, September 7, the new topic for the Bible Study will be Galatians! They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Here is the Zoom link information for the Bible Study class.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEydl1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SZkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

### Vicar’s Study – the Revelations of Julian of Norwich

Come to a bible study led by Vicar Gina Schaefer starting Sept 28 and continuing to Nov 16. We will meet every Thursday at 6 pm in the Conference Room, in person and online. Explore the “Revelations of Divine Love” by Julian of Norwich, a church mystic and teacher from the Middle Ages. Her beautiful and compassionate writing reveals God’s love for us and creation, and invites us to contemplate the mystery of the divine. Zoom link:



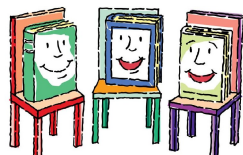
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84718568201?pwd=aEtMdkpSdII1DanNKaXcrYjJ0SEZmUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 1856 8201 Passcode: 199598

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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Durham, NC 27705-5731

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### St. Paul's Readers Thursday, October 19 at 3 pm



St. Paul's Readers

We invite all readers to join us for our discussion of *Judas* by Amos Oz. Our meeting is on Thursday, Oct 19 at 3 pm in Trinity Hall. Kim Hoke is facilitating the discussion.

The book revolves around Shmuel Ash, a student in Jerusalem who leaves his studies in the winter of 1959 "because his relationship had broken down, because his research has stalled, and especially because his father's finances had collapsed." This biblical scholar, adrift in his young life, finds work as a caregiver for a brilliant but cantankerous old man. A mysterious, beautiful woman also resides there, who entrances young Shmuel even as she keeps him at a distance. Piece by piece, the old Jerusalem stone house, haunted by tragic history and now home to the three misfits and their intricate relationship, reveals its secrets. This powerful novel grapples with multiple themes, including the humanity of Jesus, the basis of anti-semitism in particular and prejudice in general; the hope for eventual peace in the state of Israel; and love. It has received several international awards.

Our final book for 2023 is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks on November 16. We welcome suggestions for our 2024 reading list which will be chosen in October. We try to select books from different genres to stretch our horizons, as well as to appeal to a wide range of people. 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](mailto:katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com).

### Caring for Creation

This fall begins our annual stewardship campaign of finances and ministry, but everyday is stewardship

day in Caring for our Creation. As part of the Social Ministry "re-formation," A Caring for Creation committee ministry has been formed. God's intention for humanity was to be the creation's caregivers. As the committee began meeting, we looked at Pastor (Vicar) Mac's internship project of Creation Care at St. Paul's. We are already seeking to reduce trash by using reusable shopping bags, ceramic cups, glass communion cups, and energy-efficient light bulbs, but there is so much more we can do!



We will note the Feast of St. Francis that falls on October 4, by celebrating creation in sermon and prayer on Sunday, October 1. We will also begin a recycling drive during the month of October. Bring your used eyeglasses and batteries (sizes AA, AAA, C, or D) and look for the container in the atrium.

Coming next spring there will be an "anything with a plug" recycling drive – watch for further details.

### Young In Spirit

A great time was had by all in September as we munched on pizza and talked of program ideas for this year. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 11 at 11:30 am. It will be a "bring your own lunch" and the program will be our very own Vicar Gina as she shares her faith journey.



Looking ahead – Wednesday, November 8, Bill Gresham will share information on St. Paul's bee population. We will be able to visit the bee hives on our property.

December will be a travel adventure to Sanford to once again enjoy a play at the Temple Theater. Saturday, December 9, at 2:00 pm we will see "A Christmas Story" presented by the community players. Tickets are \$35.00 each and your reservation must be made by Thursday, November 9 to reserve your spot. For info: contact Dean and Marcia Redman, [dmredman251@gmail.com](mailto:dmredman251@gmail.com).