

CROSS CONNEC IONS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 2024

Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God

The Altar Flowers are presented to the glory of God and in honor and memory of my mother, Virginia Jules, and grandmother, Alvena Peil, by Rebecca Jules.

St. Paul's Funeral Reception Committee

St. Paul's is in need of a Funeral Reception Committee made up of people who would like to be called upon to help with such receptions. Funeral receptions are a way to help the grieving family during a very stressful time. We each do not necessarily know the deceased or the family in order to help with these events. Those listed would not be expected to help with every funeral, but agree to being asked to help in one of a variety of ways. Categories of help are:

- Set-up (usually done day before),
- Serving, food donation
- Clean Up,
- Pre-Reception preparation (day of event)
- Laundry

If you have any questions or are interested in being on a Funeral Reception Committee, please notify Martha Dahl at mjdahlhouse@gmail.com or 847-612-6687, with your name, email and phone, indicating in which category or categories you are willing to help. Thank you!

Internship News!

Summer is a time of travel and transition for all of us and especially for our Vicar program. Our vicars bring willing hearts and hands as they come among us as "new friends" to learn and grow and leave us enriched as a congregation and remain "forever friends".

Two important celebrations are coming soon:

- **July 28 will be Vicar Gina Schaefer's last Sunday.** We will celebrate her time with us with a brief reception and gifts in between services. If you would like to contribute to a cash gift to help Gina along her path to ministry, please do so via the offering plate, the deposit slot in the Bookkeeper's office or online with the notation of a "vicar gift."
- **Our '24- 25 Vicar, Ashley Bowman** starts her time with us on August 1! We plan to do our traditional "pounding" consisting of household items and gift cards. A bin will be set up in the foyer to help launch our new Vicar.

Thank you for your continuing support of our Vicars.

Linda P. Foreman for the Internship Committee

Committee: Marcia Redman, Jan Huntley, Curtis Chi, Mike Wormald, Linda Foreman

Wednesday Suppers Return

Join us for a "Summer Sandwich and Salad Spread" on Wednesday, August 21, at 6:00pm for Supper. Just bring yourself (and someone else if you like!) for a buffet of sandwich fixings and salads and of course dessert! If you are available, help with clean-up will be needed (no prior training needed). Hope to see you there!

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.

Working Adult Group

Upcoming events for our working adult group, contact Megan Cunningham for details:

July: Duke Lemur Center Tour, July 27th at 10AM

August: Picnic at Lake Crabtree Saturday, August 17th, noon. Please reach out to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com to provide your headcount and dish. Anyone can join, there are no restrictions. Please note the bulletin boards down the Whitesell Hall hallways has all the activities for the remainder of 2024

Growing Thru Grief

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

July Schedule

July 30 "Some points I've Learned about Grief," with Joyce Rea

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

Adult Sunday School sessions start 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

Dropped Stich: On Break Until September

Tongue and Thimble

Our quilting group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/ Music room in Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 AM to 12 PM. The group will be taking a break until July 16 - See you then!

Wednesday Night Suppers Return!

Join us for a "Summer Sandwich and Salad Spread" on Wednesday, August 21, at 6:00pm for Supper. Just bring yourself (and someone else if you like!) for a buffet of sandwich fixings and salads and of course dessert! If you are available, help with clean-up will be needed (no prior training needed). Hope to see you there!

Rally Day: September 8th, 2024

During the Sunday School hour we will be hosting St. Paul's Ministry Fair, where you will get the opportunity to see all the ministries available to you, and learn more on how you can participate. For any questions or interest in helping, please reach out to Megan Cunningham at mcunni16@gmail.com

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Ruth Ann Meier who died on July 17th 2024.

Arrangements are still not determined. Please keep Tom in your prayers.

Diapers

We are in need of size 3, 4, and 5 diapers for the Afghan Refugee family supported by St. Paul's. If you can help, please place diapers in the bin outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!

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!

The preschool is hosting Summer camp this month! There will be sessions July 22 -25 and July 29 - August 1. Camp runs from 9 AM to 12 PM and is for children ages 2-5. Spots are available! The cost is \$190 per week per child. Contact Candace at preschool@stpaulsdurham.org to register

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.

Please consider contributing to our morning devotions.

Devotions: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send devotions to vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Rev. Scott Anderson, Pastor

Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

Gina Schaefer, Vicar

Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor

Joy Webster, Office Assistant

Dr. Ted Turner, Minister of Music

Alan Rigsbee, Bookkeeper

Candace King, Preschool Director

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From the Pastor...

I can't believe July is almost over and we are looking toward the end of summer. The heat has made life particularly difficult, but it is summer in NC. As I look toward August and the transition between Vicar Gina and the arrival of Vicar Ashley I realize how quickly time moves. It seems like only yesterday that Vicar Gina arrived and rushed through her first couple of sermons. Now she is moving on to become a pastor in her own parish and you all helped to prepare her for this calling. Vicar Ashley begins on August 1 but has been living in Durham for a couple months.

August 4 is going to be a special Sunday. We welcome Vicar Ashley, but we also will have a professional photographer here that morning and we will be staging photos with staff and committees. I also hope to have the photographer take family group photos of those wishing to update their directory photos. We will be doing this during the Sunday School hour.

I also want to acknowledge that change is hard and the change to weekly announcements and the change in format for Cross Connections is very different. We are doing the best we can to communicate important information while not being overly repetitive or bombarding you with too many emails. This issue of Cross Connections will be emailed on Thursday, July 25 and hard copies will be available July 28 during worship. There will be extra copies available. We are including a separate sheet with the church calendar which includes not only the regularly scheduled meetings but any events on the church calendar that were booked by the time of publication. This means there may be other things on the calendar that still require you to check with the church office before assuming a room is available. The back of the calendar will list this month's anniversaries and birthdays taken from the church directory. Birthdays and anniversaries are always available on the church directory.

Thanks for your willingness to try new things. Please remember to wear nametags in August to help Vicar Ashley know your names. If you need a nametag let Joy (assistant@stpaulsdurham.org) know.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them.

Pastor Scott

From the Vicar...

Dear friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you! And farewell!

That's right, this week is my last week with you as your intern and Vicar. July 28 will be my final Sunday with you before I move onto the next part of my journey. This has been a wonderful year, filled with learning, joy, and growth, and yet many challenges. I will miss St. Paul's and the people who have made it such a great place to be. However, all things must come to an end and so I want to take this moment as my time at this congregation comes to a close to express not just my admiration for St. Paul's but also my gratitude.

Internship is a time for learning and growth. When I came to you I was a seminarian with a few years of field-education under my belt and not much else in terms of real experience in the parish. This past year you have stood by me with the utmost grace as I figured-out how to be your Vicar. You have forgiven my gaffs, celebrated my success, and provided honest feedback to help me be better. It's not easy to trust a twenty-four year old stranger into your hearts and into your homes – but you have done so, and eagerly.

You have allowed me to see you in your most vulnerable moments. You have allowed me to mourn with you at funerals and visit you in hospital rooms and nursing homes. We have celebrated together and we have worshiped God together. Through it all, you have been welcoming, loving, and signs of God's grace and mercy.

For all of this and more, I am grateful. St. Paul's should be proud of its intern program. For years you have faithfully served the church by equipping pastors for public ministry. The interns who go on from St. Paul's are spread through-out the country, proclaiming the gospel and sharing the grace of God. They are able to do so, and do it well, because of the work, sacrifice, and investment of St. Paul's.

So, thank you! Thank you for all you do! Thank you for a great year! And thank you for answering God's call to serve the church! Thank you!

Now, you may be wondering, what comes next? (Cont.)

(Cont.)

My next step will be approval in August. Once I am approved by my Candidacy Committee, I will begin the search for my first call in North Carolina. Upon call I will be ordained and will begin work as a pastor. I look forward to sharing good news with you all of my approval, ordination, and installation. Meanwhile! St. Paul's will have a new intern: Ashley Bowman, who will begin on August 1. I know she is going to have a great year and you will care for her as you cared for

So, for now, goodbye St. Paul's! And thank you for everything you have done, for me, the church, and God.

Peace and Blessings,

Vicar Gina

Preschool Highlights...

I can't believe we're already halfway through the summer! We kicked off camp a little later this year, but are currently in full swing. Our preschoolers have enjoyed learning about all things ocean, construction, and my favorite theme – dinosaurs! Just like during the school year, our kids explore multiple types of sensory materials (like kinetic sand and water beads), spend a healthy amount of time outside exploring in the newly dedicated Luther Woods, building endless creations, and learning how to make friends.

Next month, we are back to school! As you may imagine we are constantly using different materials to explore our five senses and consumable materials in our classrooms. If you're thinking about tossing something – don't! Diana Dominick supplied summer camp with seashells and scrapbook paper for our creation station! We are thankful for her and our other members who have recently given us art supplies, clothing, toys, and musical instruments! So feel free to let me know if you have something the preschool may be able to use - I'll also share our classroom supply list next month.

I am currently looking for a lead teacher for the 4s classroom. It's a part-time position that is 4 hours a day, 5 days a week (plus paid time for planning).

(Cont.)



(Cont) Please email me at Preschool@stpaulsdurham.org if you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about the position.

Wishing you a wonderful rest of your summer!

In Christ, Candace



St. Paul's Readers...

Although our book club meetings are on summer break, it is a wonderful time to start reading our fall selections. We hope to expand our circle of readers over the coming months and hope that you will consider joining us for one or all our meetings. If you are interested in what we are reading this fall, here are our selections:

September 19. *The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey* by Candice Millard, 2005. After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon. Together with his son Kermit and a famous Brazilian explorer, Roosevelt accomplished a feat so great that many at the time refused to believe it. Along the way, Roosevelt and his men faced an unbelievable series of hardships, losing their canoes and supplies to punishing whitewater rapids, and enduring starvation, Indian attack, disease, drowning, and a murder within their own ranks.

October 17. *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman, translated by Erica Moore and Elizabeth Manton, 2020. International bestseller 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. 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. Refreshing concepts! (cont.)

(cont) November 16. The Engineer's Wife by Tracey Enerson Wood, 2020. The fictionalized story of Emily and Washington Roebling, the real couple who took on the immense Brooklyn Bridge construction project. Emily's involvement was not intentional; she intends to join the suffragist movement, but a series of tragedies besetting the bridge project interferes. Emily finds herself thrust into a pivotal role, serving as intermediary between the builder, fractious workers, investors, and corrupt politicians. Her most trusted ally, showman P.T. Barnum, helps her develop confidence and public speaking skills.

We hope to complete our book list for 2025 by the end of October and welcome your suggestions at any time. Please consider joining us for any or all our meetings. We always welcome new faces and suggestions.

Contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions.

Stephen Ministry Corner...

What's it all about, Stephen?

For some reason, the great 60's song "What's It About, Alfie" written by Bert Bacharach and Hal David and sung by Dionne Warwick came into my head recently. In it the lyrics ask the question "Are we meant to take more than we give?"

Stephen Ministry is the opposite. Stephen Ministers give more than they take. They give their time, their listening ear, their empathy, their openness to hear anything without judging, and their concern for others who are facing some life event that is troubling them. Stephen Ministers don't give advice or direction, just support and compassion. On further reflection, Stephen Ministers often get as much as they give in the currency of gratitude and friendship – perhaps even more.

If you are in need of help and would like a Stephen Minister or would like to be Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Scott, John Foreman, Kim Hoke or Nan Treul.

In the mailbag...

"My sincere appreciation to St. Paul's family for your prayers, cards, and visits, during my recuperation from spine surgery. I am doing well and look forward to seeing each of you very soon".

Marilyn Bell- Hawley

