

Cross Connections



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

October 2020

TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday, October
30 at 6:15 pm
St. Paul's Parking Lot

New to Trunk or Treating? It's a great fall event where you have a fun time decorating your trunk, and the treaters come to your car. Search the internet and you will find lots of great ideas – or put your thinking cap on and start creating - get the kids

involved in the fun! Trunk decorators can arrive at the Pickett Road parking lot between 5:30 and 6:10 pm,

leaving one parking space between each car. This will allow time to set up decorations and have traffic completed before starting the trunk or treating at 6:15 pm. We plan to end by 7:00 pm. Treats will be safely distributed by the adults using gloves or tongs to drop into the treaters' bags. Everyone over age 3 needs to be wearing a mask and to help social distance, treaters will start at different areas.



The Rev. Scott M. Anderson, Pastor
Susan Esposito, Parish Administrator & Editor
Jacqueline Nappi, Minister of Music
Amanda Stoen, Preschool Director
Judy Goans, Vicar
Jackie Fryt, Bookkeeper

The Rev. Amanda Highben, Associate Pastor, Duke Lutherans

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

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From the Pastor...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)

I keep asking God to fill us with hope and peace in this time of uncertainty. I don't mean just the pandemic. I feel so in need of seeing you all. I miss an almost full sanctuary. I miss Wednesday evening meals. I miss seeing so many of you wander through the halls of St. Paul's.

In September the preschool restarted and so we hear and see familiar faces in the mornings. We hear the sound of children briefly each day, but we are all so consumed with zoom school, zoom encounters that the thought of Sunday School, confirmation and adult group activity electronically holds little interest for most of us.

It is budget planning time and time to find three new members for next year's congregation council. It is also election time and I don't know about you but if I hear another commercial about how bad the opposition is (no matter who it is) I think I am going to be sick.

I want us to be filled with hope and peace. I desire for a world where we proclaim the truth of who we are and whose we are and don't judge the other. I hope and pray we can maintain our life together. It will, I think, always be different than what we had a few short months ago. But that doesn't mean the difference must be bad. It will just be different.

My guess is we will always offer a recorded worship option. We will find ways to worship together in Advent and Christmas. We are working with Duke Lutherans to dream of what Advent worship will look like. We may still offer a Wednesday night in person and zoomed offering for worship. We may hold many worship services on Christmas Eve. I hope to still put up the Chrismon tree.

And this being October, we are working with the preschool and Wildflower to find a way to do Trunk or Treat for the children.

So keep a watch on the newsletters, both mailed and emailed.

Pray for St. Paul's, our nation and for one another. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as we find new ways to be with one another in these trying times.

Pastor Scott

At Home at St. Paul's

Thank you to everyone at St. Paul's for your warm welcome. I especially want to thank those who have poked their heads into my office to say hi. Being able to speak with persons – even through masks – has been a real treat for me. The same is true for those I have had the chance to speak with at drive-through communion and more lately at our outdoor worship services. I have also enjoyed the chance to chat with people via Zoom at coffee hour and at our weekly Bible study. All of these are a real treat for me!

Thank you also to everyone who has submitted a devotion. We publish them every day, Monday through Friday, but only if we have a devotion to publish. If you haven't signed up yet to do a devotion, consider writing one. You may be more talented at writing devotions than you think! There's no set format for the devotions, so write what you feel brings us closer to God. The variety of our devotions is, I think, one of their strengths. And a number of members of St. Paul's have commented that they appreciated receiving the devotions, particularly while we are unable to meet together in person.

Recently, I have enjoyed opportunities to talk with St. Paul's folks about churchy things, like how to support members of our congregation who are sidelined from participation by the pandemic, and how to approach Christian education and stewardship in these difficult times. Please feel free to share your ideas on these or other topics. When the Holy Spirit gets involved, there's no telling where new ideas will take us!

Feeling blessed to be here, and wishing you all great blessings!

Judy Goans, Vicar

Music Updates

*by Jacqueline Nappi
Minister of Music*

Worship

How exciting to start outdoor worship last month! We will continue using Now the Feast and Celebration as our liturgy for in-person worship and setting one for video worship. Much of the music (preludes, hymns) will be contemporary for in person worship and traditional for video worship.

Kids Choir

A Children's Choir music video is coming out soon! Kids will be able to watch and sing along with the video. The songs will be a mix of Christmas and

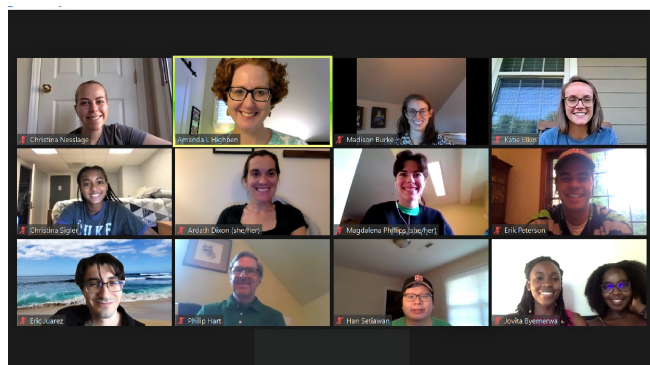
folk/traditional. The video will be posted to our St. Paul's vimeo site for anyone to access. Kids can practice the music online and perhaps eventually have a recording made of their voices to send in for a virtual kids choir. If interested, please email me at: music@stpaulsdurham.org.

Bell Choir

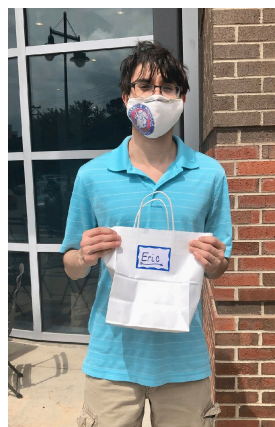
We are officially looking for more ringers! Our beautiful handbells will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am in Trinity Hall or outside in the creation garden (depending on the weather). If interested in joining us, please email me at: music@stpaulsdurham.org

Choir

The adult choir will continue to make part recordings for video worship and we could always use more voices! We practice on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm, however attendance is not required to join us.



Duke Lutherans 2020 Matching Campaign: Getting Closer!



Thank you, St. Paul's members and friends, for your faithful support that makes the vital work we do with students possible. Because of your generosity, we've now raised about \$10,000 and are closer to our \$35,000 goal. But it's not too late to give! Every dollar you donate from now until Reformation Sunday (Oct 31) will be matched 1:1! This means a gift of \$25 becomes

\$50, \$100 becomes \$200, and \$1,000 becomes \$2,000—all of which will enable us to develop a



sustainable future and be here for the Duke Lutherans still to come.

This link <https://www.gifts.duke.edu/> will take you to a secure giving site through Duke University where you can make your donation. Simply type "Duke Lutherans" in the search box. Or, Write a Check

payable to Duke Lutherans and mail/drop-off at St. Paul's.

As for the present time, we are thankful for our life together, as we worship on Sunday evenings, meet for weekly Bible study and fellowship lunch, learn about and pursue racial justice and acts of peace, pray for one another, laugh, cry, and help to bear each other's burdens.

As always, keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours. Pray for safety, well-being, courage, and joy.

In Peace and Gratitude,

Pastor Amanda (amanda.highben@duke.edu)



Preschool Pitter Patter



by Amanda Stoen

"We can do hard things." This statement is something we frequently say to our preschool children to encourage them and acknowledge their persistence. The preschool

staff has been saying this to ourselves as we prepared to reopen and learned a new way of operating a preschool during this unprecedented time. We have been open for about a month and it is just wonderful to

be back! It is good to see the families in person, rather than virtually, and to get back to our ministry of providing quality Christian education that fosters learning and development.

Our children are learning how to play together again. We are starting our school year focusing on social skills like asking for a turn, entering group play, how to handle disappointment and what to do if a friend doesn't want to play and finding a "solution" when this happens. They are learning these skills and so many more as we gather each day. Fred Rogers tells us, "Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning."

We spend the majority of our preschool day outside in four main spaces. We are even outside on rainy days! Puddle stomping is a lot of fun at this age! You may have noticed the additional space being used in the back parking lot area during the weekdays. We are using this space for riding trikes, center time, storytime, snacktime and science/discovery. We have created an Amazon Wish List if you would like to support our outdoor spaces.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1?ref=wl_share

Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this time. We are so glad to be open again and working with our preschool families.

Council Corner

The Congregation Council is grateful for the strong participation in September's virtual and physical cottage meetings. Sixty-five people attended at least one meeting, and a few attended two of them. We prayed and chatted and discussed matters including our upcoming 100th Anniversary (in May 2022), new and ongoing initiatives, and the state of our finances. The council is committed to transparency and always welcomes questions and input.

Pastor Anderson, Vicar Judy, and congregational volunteers have reinvented worship yet again! Who would have thought we'd be so glad to be able to sit together-at-a-distance in chairs and in cars in the parking lot?! Each week presents its joys and challenges as we try to predict weather and angles of the sun, move equipment, and connect electronic components. The outdoor service and drive-through communion require quite a few volunteers. There's nothing hard about it (except the planning, and Pastor Anderson takes care of that). And many of us enjoy the interactions and sense of belonging that comes with participation. If you'd like to get involved on a

frequent or occasional basis, please call the office or send a message to Susan Esposito:

admin@stpaulsdurham.org

For many reasons, some of us are not ready to resume in-person worship and prefer to watch and participate in the recorded services each week. They will continue to use ELW Setting One with Jackie Nappi playing the organ. You may soon hear the voices of our choir in those services, too.

It's a significant task for our staff to conduct these very different services at different times of the week. Let's all pray for them and show support however we can.

At the September meeting, the Council voted to explore the possibility of amending our alcohol policy. If you would like to be part of a task force to gather information and make a recommendation on that subject, please email council@stpaulsdurham.org.

Wishing you good health and strong faith,
Tina Bessias, Congregation Council President

Memorials Received

We thank the following persons who have submitted memorials in memory of those designated.

In memory of Ted Watson

Alta Lindsay, Durham
Tom and Ruth Ann Meier, Durham

In memory of Sonja Bock

Debbie Harris Anderson, Bahama
Tom and Ruth Ann Meier, Durham
Tim and Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill
Gus Holshouser, Durham

In memory of Jim Sackett

Tony and Penni Perrotte, Durham
Katherine Trexler, Durham
Charlie Bock, Durham
Tom and Judy Kraska, Durham
Tim and Kim Hoke, Chapel Hill
Nan Truel, Chapel Hill (for Stephen Ministries)
Gus Holshouser, Durham
Robin Winfree, Durham
Tom and Ruth Ann Meier, Durham

In memory of Ruth Boynton

Gus Holshouser, Durham

In memory of Frieda Hahn

Ron and Marci Brown, Durham

In memory of Nancy Clendaniel

Tom and Ruth Ann Meier, Durham

Pledges for 2021

by Tina Bessias

Congregation Council President

On behalf of the Church Council, I am so grateful for the supportive congregation and committed staff that are working together to sustain our operations and mission through these tumultuous times. Your pledge will play an important role in the October/November work of the Finance Committee and Congregation Council as we plan for 2021. The question of whether the vicar program can be restored to the budget will be a particular focus. Whether or not you have pledged before, we hope you'll give this opportunity your prayerful consideration. Consecration Sunday is October 4, but your pledge is welcome any time. Pledge cards with envelopes were sent out by mail in mid-September. They can be returned by mail or dropped in the offering plate.

In response to God's grace and love in Christ Jesus, and in appreciation of St. Paul's Church's mission and ministries, I/we intend to give this offering during 2021 in support of our congregation's ongoing ministries.

Amount to be given:
☐ \$_____ weekly ☐ \$_____ monthly ☐ \$_____ quarterly ☐ \$_____ yearly

PRINT Name(s) _____

Signature _____

*Please complete this portion of the Statement of Intent and return to the church by mail or drop off
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1200 W Cornwallis Rd., Durham NC 27705*

Give by (please check one):
☐ Online Giving (set up online or provide a voided check) ☐ Cash/Check ☐ Automatic Bank Deduction or Credit Card
"Please contact your financial institution to initiate."

You can change your Statement of Intent at any time and for any reason by notifying the financial secretary.
 THANK YOU!! Your continued generous giving to God through St. Paul's Lutheran Church is deeply appreciated.

If you can't put your hands on the pledge card, you may send the information to our financial secretaries, Phil Hart and Rod Runestad, via email: psbhart@Gmail.com and rodrunestad@gmail.com.

Pandemic Exhaustion



by Nan Treul
 Stephen Ministers

Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . . .

- isolation and loneliness
- anxiety over health
- grief due to many different kinds of losses
- tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling
- financial strain or job loss
- uncertainty about the future
- other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately – by phone, by video chat, or, if safely possible, in person – to offer care and support. It's free and completely confidential. For more information, please contact Pastor Scott, Kim Hoke, or Nan Treul.

National Lutheran Choir

Even though the National Lutheran Choir cannot gather in person at the start of the 2020-21 concert



season, their song of hope, faith and love is not silenced! Join as NLC embarks on a unique and meaningful season of programming with a Virtual Subscription that

promises twice-monthly content delivered directly to audiences.

Much like a season ticket, the Virtual Subscription is a great way to stay engaged with the Choir during this time when singers and audiences are unable to safely gather for live performances. At \$10/month (\$90 for the full season) your household will enjoy specially-created content from the NLC video library, behind-the-scenes looks at how the Choir is preparing their 2020 All Saints and Christmas programs and interviews with Artistic Director David Cherwien, Artist in Residence Paul John Rudoi, and much more.

The All Saints and Christmas Festival programs will be newly curated, virtual events that stream for FREE via the NLC website on November 1 and December 11. There is no need to subscribe to enjoy these well-loved events.

For more information – or to subscribe – go to NLCA.com.

Our Sympathy

We received word from Curt Hahn that his wife, Frieda died on September 17. Curt and Frieda were members of St. Paul's before their move to Arizona. If you would like to send a card to Curt, the address is:

1825 W Emelita Ave, Apt 448
 Mesa AZ 85202

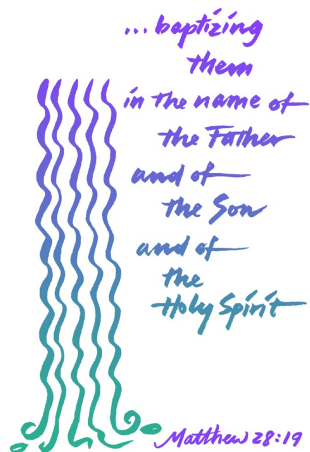
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1200 West Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705-5731

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In the mailbag...

A sincere thank you to those who sent notes, cards, phone calls, donations and virtual hugs following Jim's death. After COVID has passed – and it will – I plan to ban the word “virtual” from my vocabulary; though I don't come from a family of huggers, I certainly will after all this has passed. A special thank you goes out to the Women's Connection (of which I'd never heard) for the VERY helpful bag of assorted goodies. What a wonderful idea!

*Fondly and sincerely,
Carol Sackett*



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

We welcomed Landon Nasir Sanders, child of Michele and Lance Sanders, by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, September 27, 2020 before the 10:00 am service. Landon was born on December 15, 2019 in Durham. Sponsors are Taniqua Ezell and Kendrick Greenlee.

Altar Flowers

You are still welcome to request altar flowers for any Sunday the rest of the year. You may have a special day, anniversary, birthday, or a remembrance of someone you would like to recognize. You may sign up on the forms under the TV monitor in the foyer or just send your request at least 2 weeks in advance of the date to Susan Esposito (admin@stpaulsdurham.org). We ask for a \$30 to cover costs of the flowers. You are welcome to pick them up after the Sunday service.

Katherine Circle

The Katherine Circle will hold their first fall meeting in person on Tuesday, October 13. We will meet in Trinity Hall, socially distancing and with face masks, at 10:00 am. Hoping to see many of you there!

St. Paul's Readers

Join the discussion of Liturgy of the Ordinary, by Tish Harrison Warren, on Thursday, October 15 at 3:00 pm. The book for November is A Sin by Any Other Name: Reckoning with Racism, by Robert W. Lee.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have begun outdoor worship for the first 50 people who come on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We will also broadcast these services over radio channel **87.9 fm** with a local transmission station if you wish to stay in your vehicle. Holy Communion will be served during this service and will be available as drive through from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon weekly as well.

In the case of inclement weather, we will move the 50 people inside – 25 in the Sanctuary and 25 in Trinity Hall. **Inside there will be no singing.** We will be using **Now the Feast and Celebration** for the outside worship. You will be required to **bring your own chair** and we will guide you to distance the placement of the chairs in the back parking lot near the Memorial Garden and the mobile classroom. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED.** Hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at the entrance to the worship space.

We will continue to record setting one weekly as well. So those who have enjoyed receiving weekly worship on our Vimeo channel can continue to do so. You are invited to go to this link:

<https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> to access our Vimeo worship services for past, present, and future. You may do this at any time convenient to you.