

Chancel Flowers

by Jeff Anderson

Chairperson, Worship Committee

During worship services every Saturday night and Sunday morning, our congregation is treated to fresh-cut flowers in two vases on stands behind the altar. Not only are these flowers a beautiful addition to our chancel area, they also mirror, in color and arrangement, the liturgical season. For example, throughout the Easter season, the flowers will be white, often with lilies mixed in the arrangement. On Pentecost and Reformation Sunday, the dominant color will be red. During Lent, tradition suggests that we have no flowers, as we travel in humble pilgrimage with Christ toward the cross. At all times, the flowers are fresh-cut, giving their life and beauty to the glory of God, and reminding us of the one who gave his life for our salvation.

While all of us enjoy these flowers during our worship, we may not all be aware that these flowers are not a budgeted congregational expense. Rather, these flowers are purchased through the donations of members and participating non-members. Anyone may donate flowers for a given Sunday, and a member or family can donate flowers as often as they wish.

To facilitate flower donations, there is a "Flower Box" in the foyer area, on the table outside the door to

the offices. On the top of the box is a listing of Sundays for the year and spaces to sign up to donate flowers for a given Sunday. Inside the box are envelopes for donation checks, and forms for information regarding the donation. Flowers may be given in memory of or in honor of an individual or group. They may be given in recognition of a birthday or anniversary or some special occasion. The cost to donate a vase for a given weekend is \$25. If more than two vases are donated for a given weekend, the extra funds will be used to purchase flowers on weekends when less than two vases are donated.

Following worship on Sunday, the flowers will normally be taken to hospitalized or homebound members. In this way, they proclaim Christ's love through our care and outreach ministries. However, a donor has the option of receiving the flowers following Sunday worship services (including any afternoon or evening services). In this case, the donor should contact the altar guild minister assigned to the final service of the day to arrange to pick up the flowers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Altar Guild or any staff person.

Altar Flowers Request Form

If you would like to dedicate flowers for any given week, you may use this form, complete it and return to the church office, with payment of **\$25**, at least one week before your selected date.

You may mail it to:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1200 West Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705-5731

To expedite the information you may fax the form and send payment to the above address:

Fax number: 919-490-1088 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Date Requested: _____

Information printed below will be included in the bulletin

The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God and...

In honor of _____

and/or

in memory of _____

or _____

by: _____