

The Epistle



SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector
The Rev. Kathy Hopner, Associate Priest
The Rev. Chip Arnold, Associate Priest
The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon
The Rev. Reynelda James, Deacon

JANUARY 2012

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**ST. PAUL'S
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 22nd
10:00 a.m.**

On Sunday, January 22nd we will have our annual parish meeting during a combined 10:00 a.m. worship service. Since every member is HIGHLY encouraged and/or expected to attend this meeting there will not be a 5:00 p.m. service on this Sunday.

**10:00 a.m. Worship ONLY
NO 9:00 a.m., NO 11:00 a.m. NO 5:00 p.m.**

From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk



I just want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our special Advent and Christmas services so great! St. Paul's is truly blessed with such wonderful people.

Peace, Kirk+

Senior Warden's Report



Happy New Year!

This year calls us to mission. We must remain focused on the ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Each of us participates in that ministry when we tell our friends and neighbors about the church. If

you have any questions about the letter that was sent out at the end of December, please contact me, Bob Bibby, or Fr. Kirk. Please mark your calendar for the parish's Annual Meeting on January 22nd. There will be a joint service beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the annual meeting will be incorporated into the service. We will accept additional vestry nominations from the floor during the meeting. This is your opportunity to join with the other vestry persons in providing leadership for the parish.

Epiphany is the season of Light! I pray that each of you will be a light to another person so that they may find their way to Christ.

You will read about many parish activities in the Epistle. I hope you will join in as many as you are able.

Do not be afraid! Fear makes us small and rigid. Be courageous! Step out into the light of Christ with faith.

Margaret

Monthly Receipt Summary



The following table shows the weekly receipts from pledge and plate offerings for this period:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|--------------------|
| 27-Nov | \$4,412.00 | 4-Dec | \$5,428.00 |
| 11-Dec | \$3,834.00 | 18-Dec | \$3,926.00 |
| 25-Dec | \$18,454.00 | | |
| Monthly Total | | | \$36,054.00 |

For the 5 weeks reported here, we have been truly blessed by our parishioners. The additional gifts received during this season will greatly assist in creating a sustainable budget for our future.

It still isn't too late for your pledge to help in the budget process. If it is your intention to pledge, please consider submitting your commitment as soon as possible.

The monthly treasurer's report contains more detail and is posted in the narthex, or you can direct your questions to any Vestry member, Dick Stufflebeam, or Patti Stine. (Email:dick@stpaulssparks.org)

Outreach Report



Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that the new year brings lots of good things. December was a very good month for the Food Pantry with donations totaling \$3,085.35. This included

and additional \$270.00 for Empty Bowls. After payment to Sherwood Forest Farms, profits to Youth Ministries for wreath sales was \$408.45. Other donations were \$40.00 for Prayers and Squares for apron sales, \$50.00 to the Reno Rodeo Denim Drive, \$140.00 each to Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and International Development

Missions (IDM), \$21.74 to United Thank Offering, \$400.00 to the Hopner Discretionary Account, \$740.00 to the Rector's Discretionary Account, and \$200.00 designated to Church School.

Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

Junior Warden's Report



As 2011 comes to a close I would like to thank everyone who has assisted in the numerous projects we completed during the year. I am sure 2012 will bring a new list of projects and I am sure I will be able to count on you again. Peg and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope it is the best one yet. In closing I'll leave you with something I ran across recently.

Rules From God

1. Wake Up! Decide to make it a good day. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it" Psalms 118:24
2. Dress Up! The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks in to the heart" I Samuel 16:7
3. Listen Up! Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. "He who guards his mouth protects his life..." Proverbs 13:3
4. Stand Up! For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all..." Galatians 6:9-10
5. Look Up! To the Lord. "I have the strength for everything through Him who empowers me" Philippians 4:13
6. Reach Up! For something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths" Proverbs 3:5-6
7. Lift Up! Your Prayers. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition... make your requests known to God" Philippians 4:6

Source Unknown

An Evening with Lee Meriwether



Come and Join us on Saturday, January 28th for an evening with Lee Meriwether. Lee will be doing a performance of "The Women of Spoon River". Lee was **Miss San Francisco, Miss California** and **Miss America**. She was

"Betty" in the show Barnaby Jones for 8 years. One of her more important roles was "**Catwoman**" in the original Batman Movie. Lee's first love is the theater and she and her family members have starred in several productions over the years. Her two most recent Nationwide plays were The female "Odd Couple" and "Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove". We are honored to have Lee at our church for this performance. If you would like to purchase tickets, please see Heather Burkhardt or call St. Paul's.



Dinner: 5:00pm - \$5.00

Show: 7:00pm - \$10.00

*Come and join the fun

December Attendance

| <u>Worship Attendance Last Month</u> | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| Week Of: | Sun 9 a.m. | Sun. 11 a.m. | Sun 5p.m. | Thurs 6p.m. | |
| Dec 4th | 98 | 40 | 15 | 13 | 1-Dec |
| Dec 11th | 104 | 49 | 12 | 10 | 8-Dec |
| Dec 18th | 118 | | 24 | 6 | 15-Dec |
| Dec 24th | 124 | 90 | | | |
| | early | late | | | |
| Dec 25th | | 30 | | 8 | 22-Dec |
| | 444 | 209 | 51 | 37 | |

Average Sunday attendance was 153.
(3 weeks) Christmas attendance was 244.

Children, Youth and Families

Epiphany Camp



Join us for a special Vacation Bible School Camp – Follow the Star – held at Trinity Episcopal Church on Tuesday, January 3rd through Friday, January 6th from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. Welcoming children ages 4

through 4th grade, the cost is \$30 per child; each additional child from the same family is \$15. Registration is limited. Please call the church office (329-4279), or speak to Rev. Stefani or Rev. Kathy for more information.

Episcopal Youth Community News

Welcoming all youth in grades 6th through 12th!

We meet at Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday evenings twice a month during the school year from 5:30 to 7:30 in the lower level for dinner, program and activities. We also plan service projects, activities and events throughout the year. Occasionally our schedule or location may change – please see the calendar below. Please call Rev. Kathy Hopner at 329-4279 or 358-4474 for more information.

This Month in the Food Pantry

“Cheerio: Farewell to Hunger”

The special item being collected for the food pantry this month is Breakfast Cereal.

Epistle Ecology Shorts

Drive green -- Accelerate slowly and avoid hard braking. You'll save gas and brakes!



Prayers of the People



Davisha, Johne, Carol, Judy, Sharon, Berenice, Art, Jane Ann, Russell, Karen, Forrest, Brandon, Nathaniel, Leah, Pat, Nina, Keaton, Jill, Caitlin, Tyler, Bill, Dave, Robbie, Pat, Bryan, Susan, Mike, Pat,

Susanne, Holly, Michelle, Bobbi, Victoria, Ryan, Ken, Nancy, Dawn, Bob, Peggy, Erin, Preston, Nancie, Allison, Ruth, Kim, Kathy, Matt, Frank, Marilyn, Bill, Gary, Chad, Deborah, Jack, Barb, Dan, Rita, Russ, Pam, Alan, Keith, Charlie, Kathy, Casey, Donna, Joyce, Penelope, Tara, John, Jeanie, Gina, Barbara, Phyllis, Denise, Jim, Laura, Liz, Phil, Shirley, Doug, Tina, Mira, The Metzker family, The Matas family, Sarah's family, Kaleb's family, Bobby & family, Pastor John Smith.

Military: Lorn, Layne, Zack, Chad, Lee, Allison, Sullivan, Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Corey, Darkhorse Marines, Nevada Air Guard and all those serving our country.

Eco-palian News



We will soon have an Ecology Notebook in the Narthex that will give us lots of ways to be green, and more importantly, explain why we care about ecology. Along with the notebook, we will have some

information on a bulletin board. Check out the "Cool Congregation" certificate from Interfaith Power and Light.

We are making progress turning the kitchen green. And we are scheduled to have an energy audit in early January. We will make plans for further action after these two things are completed.

As always, we are looking for Eco-palians. We don't take much time, but we make a big difference.



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-26-2011

HERE'S A GIFT RECEIPT FOR THE MYRRH IN CASE YOU HAD WANTED OTHER PERFUME

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING January 22nd

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2012 Vestry Election Nominee

Name: Margaret Bouzek

What does St. Paul's Episcopal Church mean to you?

St. Paul's is my family. The presence of St. Paul's in my life is very important to me. I am committed to working hard to make St. Paul's a presence in the lives of others.

Why do you want to serve on the Vestry of St. Paul's Church?

I believe that God is at work in St. Paul's. I believe I am able to be unbiased in decision making. I look at issues from all sides.

What is your favorite part of the Baptismal Covenant and why?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? This is my goal. I try to be an example of how to be in relationship with Christ. I prepare through daily prayer so that I will know when someone needs me to share my journey with Christ. I hope that when I do share that story, the guiding and helping hand of Christ is evident. I know that through His guidance I find the strength to go through each day.

What do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

My gifts for ministry are to serve as choir director to enhance the worship service for all who attend; to be a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King to help to spread God's kingdom in the world; to assist in the ministry of the Altar Guild; to serve the Diocese of Nevada as a deputy to General Convention; and hopefully to serve as a member of the Vestry at St. Paul's.

2012 Vestry Election Nominee

Name: Linda Devon

What does St. Paul's Episcopal Church mean to you?

When I was first asked this question a few years ago, I remember thinking, "I cannot describe what it means to me. It's too personal." I spent years saying this to myself and others because I didn't want to share my feelings. While I am still not good at trying to define my answer in a canned "60 Second Me" kind of way, I do have words that come to my mind when I think about our church. Many of them are standard words I think many would use - home, family, community, love, compassion, joy. Others are devotion, learning, fun, and challenging. I think the best word - the word that is the umbrella for all the others - at least for me, is safe. If a place is safe, it is like a home with a loving family. A safe place is a community that cares for its members and the world. In a safe environment you feel love, compassion, and joy. I feel safe at St. Paul's which allows me to be devoted, to have fun, and to learn by questioning and challenging what is taught.

I get a great satisfaction (dare I say pride?) in belonging to St. Paul's. So much good comes from our church!

Why do you want to serve on the Vestry of St. Paul's Church?

St. Paul's will continue to face challenges in the coming years, and I would like to be involved in charting the course for the future. This will involve making some difficult decisions. I believe I can objectively look at situations, offer opinions on them, and listen to others before making a final decision. Having served on the Vestry in the past, I understand the commitment it takes to serve, and I have the time and energy to make that commitment. And, I have to say, I truly miss it!

What is your favorite part of the Baptismal Covenant and why?

Saying the Baptismal Covenant is always an emotional part of any service for me. I like to listen to it being read with my eyes closed, as at different times of my life certain phrases and questions stand out for me. The last five questions are "action" questions. They ask and challenge each of us to do certain things. Some days it is easy to do these things, other days even completing one is a challenge.

My favorite part, for as long as I can remember (and I am a cradle Episcopalian), is the answer we respond with: "I will, with God's help." The punctuation is important in this sentence. We initially (and boldly!) commit to doing these things, but we acknowledge that we cannot and should not do these things alone. We always have God to help us.

What do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

When we did a "Spiritual Gifts Analysis" a couple years ago during Lent, my dominant strength was called "Administration." As a member of Vestry, I believe this could be a valuable strength - provided the other gifts are represented too. Along the administrative line, I am a good multi-tasker, which, by nature, tends to make me organized. I am efficient, somewhat creative, and take very seriously the responsibility that serving on Vestry brings.

My second strength was labeled "Giving." This meant not only that I was willing to support activities of the church through time, talent, and treasure, but that I was concerned with the proper use of the resources that were given. As a member of Vestry, I think this is a valuable skill that will be necessary for all Vestry members as we look at the future of St. Paul's.

Worship Leader Schedule

| WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE 01/01 thru 01/31 *** rev. 12/30/11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|-------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Day | Date | Time | Service | Lectors | | | Eucharistic Ministers | | Healing Ministers | Ushers | Projector | Altar Guild | Sunday School Teachers |
| | | | | OT | Psalm | NT/Prayers | EM1 | EM2 | | | | | |
| Su | 1/1/12 | 10:00 a.m. | 2nd after Christmas | Victoria S | | Donna S | Fran D | Ken R | | Bob B/Janice W | Mel | Patti S/Lynne S | Family Service |
| | | NO 5 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Su | 1/8/12 | 9:00 a.m. | 1st after | Linda D | | S. Schultz | Tracee R | Marge P | Brenda S | Jeff D/Dan W | John | Dianne M/Victoria S | Jeanine F |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Epiphany | Nanette F | | Pat E | Victoria S | Donna S | Mike E | Dan B/Walt C | | " | Erin A |
| | | 5:00 p.m. | | Volunteer | | Volunteer | Volunteer | | | Volunteer | | " | Keith A |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Su | 1/15/12 | 9:00 a.m. | 2nd after | Nancy L | | Brenda S | Pat E | Deb S | Tricia W | Steve S/Dave S | Ken | Pam & Sarah L | Sheri M. |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Epiphany | Holly S | | Penny M | Barb S | Dan B | Connie P | Shirley R/Jack S | | " | Heather B |
| | | 5:00 p.m. | | Volunteer | | Volunteer | Volunteer | | | Volunteer | | " | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Su | 1/22/12 | 10:00 a.m. | 3rd after | Tricia W | | | Linda D | Ken R | Marge P | Dan W/Bob B | Mel | Patti S/Lynne S | Donna S |
| | | | Epiphany | COMBINED SERVICE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING | | | | | | | | " | Nancy L |
| | | NO 5 pm | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Su | 1/29/12 | 9:00 a.m. | 4th after | Don S | | Linda K | Fran D | Patti S | Ken R | Janice W/Steve S | John | Dianne M/Victoria S | To be arranged |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Epiphany | Margaret B | | Mary E | Pat E | Mike E | Marge P | Walt C/Dan B | | " | |
| | | 5:00 p.m. | | Volunteer | | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer | | Volunteer | | " | |

Coming Events



January 2012

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday | Jan. 1, 2012 | Combined Worship with HE | 10:00 am |
| Wednesday | Jan. 4, 2012 | Godly Yarns Knitting/Weaving Group | 6:00 pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 5, 2012 | St. Paul's Clergy Meeting | 4:30 pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 5, 2012 | Healing Service with HE | 6:00 pm |
| Saturday | Jan. 7, 2012 | Daughters of the King | 11:00 am |
| Sunday | Jan. 8, 2012 | Prayer Chain Meeting | 12:30 pm |
| Monday | Jan. 9, 2012 | Vestry Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| Wednesday | Jan. 11, 2012 | Godly Yarns Knitting/Weaving Group | 6:00 pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 12, 2012 | Healing Service with HE | 6:00 pm |
| Saturday | Jan. 14, 2012 | Prayers & Squares | 9:00 am |
| Saturday | Jan. 14, 2012 | M*A*S*H Party Time | 6:00 pm |
| Monday | Jan. 16, 2012 | Martin Luther King Day office closed | |
| Wednesday | Jan. 18, 2012 | Godly Yarns Knitting/Weaving Group | 6:00 pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 19, 2012 | Healing Service with HE | 6:00 pm |
| Friday | Jan. 20, 2012 | Faith & Family Night @ Big Horns | 7:00 pm |
| Saturday | Jan. 21, 2012 | Episcopal Day at Northern NV Food Bank | |
| Saturday | Jan. 21, 2012 | Daughters of the King | 11:00 am |
| Sunday | Jan. 22, 2012 | Combined Worship & Annual Parish Meeting | 10:00 am |
| Wednesday | Jan. 25, 2012 | Epistle Deadline | 12:00 pm |
| Wednesday | Jan. 25, 2012 | Godly Yarns Knitting/Weaving Group | 6:00 pm |
| Thursday | Jan. 26, 2012 | Healing Service with HE | 6:00 pm |
| Saturday | Jan. 28, 2012 | Lee Meriwether Dinner | 5:00 pm |
| Saturday | Jan. 28, 2012 | Lee Meriwether Performance | 7:00 pm |

Recurring Events

Rector's Sabbath is every Tuesday
 AA meets every Monday at 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in the Choir Room
 Choir Practice (Check with your Choir Director)
 Praise Team (Check with your Team Leader)
 Baroque Choir Practice every Thursday at 7:00 PM in the Nave
 AA (Women's group) meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Parish Hall
 Alanon meets every Thursday at 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in Classroom 40
 Food Pantry is open every Wed. 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM & Saturday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
 Gam-anon meets every Thursday 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Choir Room

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(1135 12th Street)
P. O. Box 737
Sparks NV 89432

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Phone: 775-358-4474

Fax: 775-313-0806

E-Mail: office@stpaulssparks.org

Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here

Winter Holy Eucharist Service Schedule

Sun., 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Praise Team

Sun., 9:05 a.m. Children's Sunday School

Sun., 10:25 a.m. Adult Education

Sun., 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Choir & Organ

Sun., 5:00 p.m. Traditional Worship No Music

Thur., 6:00 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Communion

How do I become a member of St. Paul's?



All it takes to become a member of St. Paul's Church is to have your baptismal information recorded in our parish records. If you have already been baptized in any Christian denomination and you want St. Paul's to be your church home, please contact the parish office with your baptismal information and you'll be an official member. If you don't have the details of your baptism, don't panic, you can still become a member of St. Paul's. Come on in for a visit, or give us a call.

What if I have not been baptized?

Baptism is an important commitment to take as you begin your public journey towards a deeper understanding of God. If you want to learn more about Christian baptism, please visit with Rev. Chip on Sundays, or contact Rev. Kathy or Fr. Kirk in the parish office, 358-4474.