

# The Epistle



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Chip Arnold, Associate Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

The Rev. Kathy Hopner,  
Joint Reno-Sparks Youth Minister

## February 2013

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**Ash Wednesday Services:**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>**

**12:05 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

## Rector's Annual Report



My annual report can be found at the end of this newsletter. Even if you were here to listen to it, I encourage you to read it. It is important for a parish to know the Rector's perspective of the previous year.

## From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th. This is the time we prepare ourselves for the resurrection celebration of Easter. How will you use the time of Lent to spiritually prepare yourself for the day we celebrate when Jesus conquered death and opened up the path for us to have eternal life?

During these 40 days (excluding Sundays) we are called to holy time of becoming more spiritually in tune with God. The best way to do this is two fold. First we are called to eliminate things in our lives that have become a distraction in our relationship with God. These things are different for each of us.

To help us figure out what these things might be we should pray about it. During prayer, think about the things that take up most of your time. Ask yourself if those things are strengthening your relationship with God. If the answer is no, then that's where you start.

Let's say it is your job. Well, you can't give up your job, but maybe you could make changes to how you do your job, or how you interact with others while you are at work.

Maybe there are things that you sort of worship, or have too much control over you. If there are things that control you other than the

Gospel, then maybe you have found the focal point of your Lenten discipline.

The other way to prepare yourself for Lent and become more spiritually in tune with God is to add something to your routine. Maybe you need to study the Gospels, or possibly you need to get out of your comfort zone and do some hands on ministry to make a difference in the world around you. Maybe you need to take better care of your body, or take better care of relationships.

For me, studying is already a part of my vocation, a part of my daily life. What I'm going to do is to take on the discipline of better time management. This will be a real struggle for me, but I know with God's help this will have a positive outcome allowing me to be less stressed and strengthen my daily awareness of God.

When it comes to what I'm going to give up for lent, I have to look at the thing in my life that I know I have a tendency to be controlled by....calories. I'm a stress eater and the calories that come with that draw me away from being spiritually and physically healthy. I'm not going to give up any particular food, just calories in general. In order to cut calories I can choose to either consume less of them or burn them off. Either of these methods will help me during my Lenten preparation for my participation in Christ's resurrection.

How will you prepare? Pray and see...

Peace,



## Ash Wednesday Services

Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes will be February 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:05 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please join us.



## Senior Warden's Annual Report



January 27, 2013

Good Morning!

St. Paul's is an amazing community of people!

We are growing and living out God's message of hope and love in everything we do. Every member of the congregation is contributing in many ways.

We are hoping to expand the Greeter ministry and are looking for volunteers to make sure newcomers are met warmly. Greeters make everyone who enters the doors feel welcome. Is this a ministry you are called to do? What about becoming a Lector? It isn't public speaking, just reading the lesson for the day in a clear voice. Would you like to be a Eucharistic Minister? How about joining in the music ministry? Could you be an Usher? Not the musical group but one who again makes the congregation feel welcome as they arrive, makes sure they have a bulletin and collects the offering. There are many opportunities for you to become a more active participant in the life of the church. Please let a Vestry member know if this is what God is calling you to do.

We met our budget expectations for the past year. Thank you everyone! The vestry is continually working to reduce operational costs. We encourage you to study the budget. We welcome input at our monthly meetings, the first Monday of the month beginning at 6 pm.

The Vestry is pleased to announce there will soon be a parish sign on 12th street near the library to help others find us.

Speaking of finding us, have you seen our parish Website? Many thanks to Keith and Erin Anderson for their expertise in updating it!

Now we have an easily accessible place for church members and visitors alike to find the most recent Epistle and other news about the church. We are able to reduce our mailing costs by sending the Epistle out electronically as well.

Sunday School continues to grow and flourish thanks to those who volunteer to teach and organize the programs. The church office staff and volunteers are a wonderful asset to Fr. Kirk. Please join me in thanking the staff and volunteers for their contributions over the year.

I would like to give special recognition to the members of the Vestry who have completed their 3 year terms: Bob Bibby, Junior Warden; Donna Smith and Jody Rolfson. Please join me in a round of applause for them.

Again, thank you all for helping make our church a welcoming community.

Margaret Bouzek

Senior Warden

## Jr. Warden's Annual Report

Bob Bibby



During 2012 we completed several large projects and numerous smaller ones.

In an effort to reduce electrical costs and reduce the load on the circuit breakers for the Sanctuary, lower wattage bulbs were installed in several fixtures. These new bulbs do not draw as much amperage.

In January we had a major water leak under the sink in the ladies room. The water line had deteriorated to the point it had a hole in it. Water leaked under the wall and soaked the carpet in the Sunday school room. After repair,

the carpets in both Sunday school rooms and the hallway were cleaned.

Two back projection screens were installed by Mel Rolfson. These screens along with the front screens and moving the laptop to the Choir area eliminated cords that ran down both sides of the Sanctuary and were a tripping hazard.

Proceeds of the Bibby-Q were used to install new lights over the Choir and Praise Team. A vendor bid came in at \$2,375 and Mel Rolfson was able to complete the same work plus additional lighting over the organ for \$1,638. BBQ tickets covered the entire cost plus a \$2.00 profit. Thanks to all who attended and to Mel and Gene for the installation of the lights.

Spring Work Day was spent trimming bushes and trees, replacing Memorial Plaques on Pew Chairs, cleaning and repairing the bird preventers over the Narthex doors, kitchen cleaning and several other projects. Another summer project was to paint the curbs Red for a fire lane along the South fence line and near the gate on the West side. No Parking sign was also installed along the South fence line.

Our annual fire inspection was completed in August. Extinguishers were recharged, and new receptacle was installed in the Food Pantry to eliminate extension cords.

The irrigation drip lines in the Memorial Garden were repaired or replaced and a broken line under the sidewalk entrance were repaired. Two new time clocks were installed to control the system.

Due to budget constraints the last several year's monies had not been set aside monthly to cover items such as roof repair, parking lot repair, replacement of heating and air conditioning units, etc. In the 2012 budget, Vestry included monies for these expenses.

This fall the parking lot was resealed, restriped and several holes were repaired. Restriping resulted in several additional parking spaces along the Memorial Garden fence line.

Last month four dead trees were removed from the fence line on the North side before they could damage cars, fence or parishioners. Small branches and limbs were chipped and used for mulch and larger logs were used for firewood.

My three year term as Junior Warden concludes at the Annual Meeting. I would like to thank everyone who has lent a hand over the past three years to help make my job easier. Your support and help was appreciated. There are several people who I would like to give a special Thank You. These helpers could always be counted on to help on special projects like putting the Banners up and down, moving Pew Chairs into or out of "the round", electrical repairs, plumbing repairs, painting and work days. Without Gene Carse, Dick Stufflebeam, Mel Rolfson, Jeff Devon, Dan Bouzek, and Dan Ward my job would have been more difficult. Last but not least thanks to Church Secretary Robin Diehl and Fr. Kirk who so graciously let me know each time the ladies room toilets needed attention.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

*(aka, Fat Tuesday for all you heretics)*

**Please join us for our annual pancake supper as we welcome the season of Lent.**



**Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Cost: \$5.00 per person, \$15.00 per family**

## Monthly Receipt Summary

### January 2013



With the arrival of a new year, we will be working toward a new budget and some different goals. In large part, those goals will stem from our 89 pledges

totaling \$194,688 for the 2013 year.

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

<b>6-Jan</b>	<b>\$3,155.00</b>	<b>13-Jan</b>	<b>\$3,812.00</b>
<b>20-Jan</b>	<b>\$2,805.00</b>		
<b>Monthly Total</b>			<b>\$9,772.00</b>

Due to deadline considerations the fourth week of January will be included in the Epistle for next month.

By the time you receive this, you will have heard more than you wanted to know about our 2012 financial results, and the 2013 budget, but if you still have questions, don't be shy about asking.

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](mailto:dick@stpaulssparks.org))

## Outreach Report



The numbers are finally in on the Christmas wreath sales. After paying the invoice from Sherwood Forest, Youth Ministries profits were \$1,815.90. The total Christmas Offering was \$1772.00 and is being split

between our General Fund and Good Shepherd Clothes Closet. Each will receive \$886.00. Other outreach for the month included \$653.13 to the Food Pantry, \$29.50 to UTO (United Thank Offering), \$100.00 to Church School, and \$75.00 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Patti Stine

Outreach Committee

## Food Pantry Annual Report

2012 Was another successful year for The Community Food Pantry, at St. Paul's.

35 loyal volunteers gave generously of their time and talent logging more than 5000 hours.

30,909 people were fed, a total of 7455 households, in 99 distribution days. Averaged 533 people new to the pantry each month.

Immunize Nevada and Walgreens gave 125 flu shots.

New partner's and food sources were acquired in 2012. The Grove Farmers Market each week June – September growers donated unsold perishable fruits and vegetables. The Reno Bighorns also joined our efforts and had gave us the proceeds from a holiday food drive about 375 pounds of food.

Empty Bowls was another success in 2012; we are looking forward to another good event in 2013 as well as A Food Drive in March with the Reno Bighorns.

This is a wonderful ministry and thank you to every one of you for making a difference in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Monroy 1/27/13

## February in the Food Pantry



The theme for this month's Food Pantry drive is "Soup's On". This month we are collecting all types of soups and ramen noodles. Please help us stock the pantry shelves with these types of items

that we can't get from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Thank you all so much for helping.

## Pantry Volunteers are needed

EXTRA Pantry Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. We are also in need of people to make food pick ups throughout the week from different locations around town. If you are interested in helping or if you know of a community group/or business that might be interested, please contact the church office 358-4474 or you can email me at [bmonroy@mynews4.com](mailto:bmonroy@mynews4.com).

Thanks for your support.

Barb Monroy

## "Hill Gang" Meeting

The "Hill Gang" is an informally structured men's fellowship group open to all male members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The name "Hill Gang" is a reference to the fact that some men at St. Paul's are just beginning to climb the hill of life, some are at the peak, and some are descending the hill. The "Hill Gang" holds "once-in-a-while" quarterly meetings.

The next meeting of the "Hill Gang" will be Thursday evening, February 21st, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Boulevard Pizza, 1076 North Rock Boulevard in Sparks. The meeting agenda is to have fellowship, eat, drink, lie and brag for

about an hour and a half and then skittle on over to the Sparks Cinema Theater to view a thrilling, class "B" movie. You know, something along the lines of an action/adventure film that your wife, girlfriend, or significant other would rather not see. The meeting will conclude after all popcorn, candy bars, and soft drinks have been consumed.

For more information, please contact Steve Smith at 626-3307.

## January Worship Attendance

Worship Attendance Last Month					
Week Of:	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	5:00 PM	Thursdays	
Jan. 6th	146	Combined	n/a	n/a	3-Jan
Jan. 13th	61	56	15	7	10-Jan
Jan. 20th	70	40	16	8	17-Jan
Jan. 27th	96	Combined	n/a	9	24-Jan
				9	31-Jan
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	
<b>January Average Sunday Attendance = 125</b>					

## Next Baptismal Days: March 30, 31

The next scheduled days for baptisms will be Easter services, Saturday March 30th and Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you or someone you know is seeking baptism, please contact the parish office to arrange proper instruction. 775-358-4474 [Office@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Office@StPaulsSparks.org)

## Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Mondays: AA Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Women's AA @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Gama-Non Meeting @ 6:30 p.m. and Ala-Non Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

## Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion and Healing

On Thursday's during Lent we will begin the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. This service

lasts about 30 minutes and walks us through the time of Jesus' arrest to his crucifixion. Following this service we will have Holy Communion ending with special prayers for healing.

## Prayers of the People

Johne, Jack, Gina, Art, Erin, Jane Ann, Russell, Forrest, Preston, Alyson, Kim, Kathy, Bill, Russ, Keith, Casey, Victoria, Bobbi, John, Sherre, Barbara, Amy, Chris, Ella, Cole, Ronny, Patty, Kim & family, Robert, Gene, Phyllis, Larry, Marilyn, Andrew, Jamie, Wyatt, Stephen, Cathy, Jim, Nancie, Jeanette, Alan, Gay Gay, Malayni, Paisley, Ashleigh, Frank, Daniel, Nica, Debbie, Victor, Rev. Karen, Lucy, Jameson Walker, Linda, Bernadette, Ben & family, Steve, Carlyn, Dan, Gary, Mary & family, Ron, Maureen, Sophie, Joetta's family, Damon, Kelly, Jean, Vicki, Harley, Brice, Chrissey, Sharon, Stacy, Ronnie, Susan, Carley, Ray, Jerie, Romy and Gabriella.

Military: Lorn, Layne, Lee, Allison, Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Corey, Dakota, Tyler, Bobby, Robert, Sierra & Owen.

## Episcopal Youth Community News

### Episcopal Youth Community - EYC



Welcoming all youth in grades 6th through 12th!

We meet at Trinity Episcopal Church on the first and third Sunday afternoons of the month during the school year from 12:30 to 2:30 in the lower level for lunch, 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 for more information.

## February EYC Calendar

**Sunday, February 3rd:** Meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 at Trinity Episcopal Church.

**Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>:** Meeting from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, followed by leadership team meeting open to all interested high school students from 2:30 – 3:30.

**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Service project 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Trinity – we'll work on the sleeping mats and diaper projects we began on our Martin Luther King Day of Service.

### New Beginnings #3

**Are you a student in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade? Are you a high school student? We have a great weekend at Lake Tahoe for you!**

New Beginnings #3 is a weekend retreat for junior high school students focusing on the 2 greatest commandments: loving God with all of our heart, mind, and strength, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. The retreat is led by a team of youth and adults from the diocese who will help young teens explore the key relationships in their lives through games, activities, discussions, music, skits, and worship.

Developed in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida over 10 years ago, New Beginnings weekends have welcomed young teens in dioceses throughout the United States.

When: Friday evening to Sunday noon: April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

Where: Camp Galilee at Lake Tahoe

Who: Participants -Students in grades 6-8 of the current school year

Staff – Students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> of the current school year

For more information contact Rev. Kathy Hopner at 329-4279 or kathrynhopner@att.net

### **Mission Trip 2013 – San Diego, California July 6th – 14th, 2013**

We are very excited to announce our 6<sup>th</sup> annual mission trip! All youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> are invited to join us this summer as we travel to San Diego, California. San Diego's beauty shines in stark contrast to the problems of poverty, unemployment, and homelessness many of its residents face. We'll work in a variety of places like senior centers, soup kitchens, restoration and housing projects and children's programs, serving God in this fun, exhausting, life-changing adventure! Cost is \$300 per person. Space is limited; please contact Rev. Kathy Hopner at 329-4279 if you are interested in participating or would like more information!

### **Can you sew? Can you cut plastic bags – or do simple crochet?**

Please join us as we continue to work on our diaper and mat projects we began on the MLK Day of Service. We want to save some babies' lives by sending 50 diapers (or more!) to Haiti this spring! We'll meet on Saturday, March 3rd from 9 – 11 am downstairs at Trinity Episcopal Church.

**Snacks will be provided – please bring a sewing machine if possible. Thank you!**

### **Safeguarding God's Children**

Safeguarding God's Children is a program developed by the Episcopal Church to provide participants with the information they need to protect the children they care for in their personal lives, and in the ministries in which they serve from sexual abuse. Safeguarding

training is required every three years for all church staff, vestry members, Eucharistic Visitors, and anyone who works with children. The training informs participants of the ways predators gain access to and groom children for abuse and it outlines the safeguards the Church has put in place to protect children and youth in our churches, schools and diocesan institutions.

### **We will offer the following trainings:**

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Sparks– Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

At Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno - Saturday, March 9th at 9:00 am in the library

### **The Daughters of the King**

The Daughters of the King will sponsor a Lenten Reflection Day on March 2nd. Look for more announcements in the Sunday bulletins.



### **St. Paul's Prayers & Squares**

Do you know someone who is seriously ill or



having a difficult time?

Could they use a bit of

encouragement and hope?

The Prayer Quilt ministry

has over three dozen quilts

that might be just what is needed to get

someone through a trying period in their life.

We would love to help you select a quilt that

might just bring that smile to someone's face.

Please call me: Victoria Sidener 322-2375 or

leave a message at the office with Robin, 358-

4474.

## A Thank you from Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has sent to St. Paul's a certificate of appreciation for the 2012 Angel Tree Participation. Please take a look at the framed certificate located on the Outreach Board in Narthex. Thanks for such a tremendous participation and generosity.

## Lenten Soup Suppers

Lenten Soup Suppers begin February 20, 2013. There's a sign up board in the Narthex with all 6 Wednesday evenings for soup, bread, and desserts. We can always use lots of soups so please sign up and enjoy great company as well as the evening program. Soup Suppers begin Wednesday Feb. 20 through March 27. They are Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Any questions, please contact Barbara Papadacos at QH-50@sbcglobal.net or 329-2295 regarding the menu portion.

## Wednesday Lenten Study

Our Wednesday evening Lenten Study will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> following our Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30 p.m. During the 6 weeks of Lent we will engage in God's call for us to live our lives: Simply, Humbly, Generously, Compassionately, Creatively, and Fully. It helps if you are able to be with us each week, but if you can't, don't let that stop you. Come when you are able. We will also be offering this same Lenten Study on Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. beginning Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Thursday Morning Lenten Study

Our Thursday morning Lenten Study is from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the same study being offered on Wednesday evenings. During the 6 weeks of

Lent we will engage in God's call for us to live our lives: Simply, Humbly, Generously, Compassionately, Creatively, and Fully. It helps if you are able to be with us each week, but if you can't, don't let that stop you. Come when you are able.

## Confirmation, Reception,

## Reaffirmation & Adult Baptism

Classes for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation and Adult Baptism will begin Sunday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a 5-6 week class that meets from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the Sunday's during Lent.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation is the affirmation of one's baptismal vows. It is a sacramental rite in which baptized persons make a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength through the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Confirmation is not required to become full members of Christ's Body; baptism takes care of that. But for those who were baptized at an early age they are expected, when mature and ready, to make a public affirmation of their faith.

**Reception:** Persons presented for Reception are those who have been baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, have previously made an adult public affirmation of faith in any other Christian Tradition (either at their adult Baptism or on a separate occasion) and now desire to live their faith within the fellowship of the Episcopal Church.

**Reaffirmation:** Reaffirmation is suitable in a variety of situations for persons who have previously been Confirmed or Received. Have you returned to church after a period of being gone? Have you recently experienced some transition in your spiritual or church life that has changed your perspective? Was your

Confirmation so long ago that it is time to reaffirm it? Were you so young that you don't feel you were mature at your Confirmation? Reaffirmation is a repeatable rite of renewal.

**Adult Baptism:** Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The *outward and visible sign* in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The *inward and spiritual grace* in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

### Advisory Committee for the Disabled

The City of Sparks is seeking volunteers to serve two-year terms on the Advisory Committee for the Disabled.

**Purpose:** To promote awareness, develop accessibility and independence within the City of Sparks for the disabled. The Committee works closely with the community to recommend or advise action to the Sparks City Council or other City Agencies on any issue concerning the disabled population.

**Qualifications:** Residents of or employed within the City of Sparks and have a direct interest in the disabled community. The residency requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee members.

**Application:** To be considered for an appointment to this committee, contact the Mayor Geno Martini at 775-353-2311 or [gmartini@cityofsparks.us](mailto:gmartini@cityofsparks.us), the City Council representative for your ward, or Chris Syverson in Human Resources, 775-353-4022 or [csyverson@cityofsparks.us](mailto:csyverson@cityofsparks.us).

### Need Baked Goods for a Meeting, Birthday, Anniversary, or other Gathering?

Check out Sally Sue's Bakery at [www.sarahlightfoot.blogspot.com](http://www.sarahlightfoot.blogspot.com)

Sally Sue's Bakery is run by our very own Sarah and Hayley Lightfoot. ALL proceeds go to St. Paul's Church. For orders and questions call Sarah 830-8964 or Hayley 813-1955. Visit the website for a pricelist and pictures of their past works.



I'VE GOT A TON OF THINGS TO GET DONE YET TONIGHT, CAN YOU ADD THESE TO YOUR LIST FOR ME?



I THINK IT WORKS MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THIS POSITION, FYI

## Rector's Annual Report

**The Rev. Kirk Woodliff**  
**Year C, 3 Epiphany, January 27th, 2013**  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**  
**Annual Report**

As the Rector, it is my charge during the annual meeting to give an annual report on the Spiritual Wellness of the Parish. Okay, so how do we tell if our congregation is healthy?

If we were tracking the spiritual wellness of individual members of our parish it would be much easier, especially if we used our Baptismal Covenants as our guide. If we looked at us individually, the question would be: Are you living into the Baptismal Covenant?

Only you know your level of spiritual honesty to these baptismal questions:

*Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?* Only you know if you are studying towards a deeper understanding of God, Christ, and the Church. Only you can answer if your prayer life is a seven day event or something you only do on Sundays. Sundays are our day of Common Worship. Sunday is a day we gather in community as an outward and visible sign of the Body of Christ. As we come together, we share in fellowship and the sacraments in order to be fed in such a way that strengthens us to live in an active relationship with God everyday of the week...only you know.

*Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?* Only you know what is truly in your heart when it comes to forgiveness and reconciliation. Only you know when you are able to turn off the anger and turn on humility and compassion...only you know.

*Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?* Only you know if you are confident enough to share what you believe and experience in Christ. Evangelism is not something we do well, but why is that the case? You are here for a reason. Something good brings you back here each week. If we are experiencing something that is good, then why is it that we hesitate to share that goodness with others? If you enjoyed the latest blockbuster hit down at the movie theater you would tell others about it and encourage them to see it. Why is it that we can't do this with the Church? Why is it so hard to share the story of Jesus?

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?* Being a Christian is not for the weak. Only you know if you seek Christ in all persons. Only you know if you focus on the negative in people or the goodness in people...Christ is the goodness in people. Seeking Christ is hard sometimes, and it makes us look beyond the outer shell of our neighbors. Christianity is certainly not for the weak, but once we have experienced God in Christ, what else can we seek to do?

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?* Only you know if you look beyond yourself, if you can look beyond the world you live in. What does

justice and peace really mean, and will we ever really be able to answer that unless we do the work to find out? You were born in God's image. Only you know if you are able to respect the dignity of others whose image is of God just like you.

Though not written concretely in the baptismal covenant, *are you being a good steward and responding to God's grace?* Grace should be easy to accept, and if we say we do, then how do we respond to that Grace in our lives? Are you a Good Steward with what you have been given? Does the "stuff" in your life control you, or are you one who is able to offer up your abundance in order to enable to Gospel to continue in the world around you?

Only you know if you are spiritually healthy.

Since it is only you who can truly know if you are healthy, how can we tell if a congregation made up of individuals is healthy?

Though it is not easy, there are some things we can look at.

First off, is St. Paul's a seven days a week church? How often is our building being used for the glory of God? Are we sharing this resource and not just on Sundays? With confidence I can say that St. Paul's is a very active place throughout the week. With our internal ministries and our generosity with the different support groups that use our space, it is often hard to schedule new and seasonal things. We are a seven days a week church, and this is healthy.

The outward and visible signs of Stewardship help a church measure its spiritual health.

Filling out a pledge card is so much more than a tool to develop a budget. Filling out a pledge card, no matter the amount, is an outward and visible sign of spiritual wellness. In a day and age where people don't want to commit to anything, it does not surprise me that this is a growth area for us. We need to pray about being able to commit to God and to trust as we offer back to God a portion of the financial gifts God has given us. Though this is a growth area, this is also an exciting area. If we had three new pledges a year that would make us smile. This year we are beyond smiling. This year we have eleven new pledges. Eleven new pledges is a sign of a healthy church.

Do we do ministry both inside and outside the walls of our church? Looking at our ministries is a way to know if we are healthy. I'm not just talking about ministries that are stamped with the name St. Paul's. I don't know all the ministries that you do that are not linked to the parish, but I do know many of you are active in a variety of ways...this is good. Our ministries need Christ's stamp on them, but they don't have to have St. Paul's stamp as well. We do however have many ministries with our stamp on them. Some of you support them financially and others of you like to be more hands on. The healthy measure is that each of us needs a ministry. Do you have an identifiable ministry? If not, or if you want to seek new opportunities, talk to me and we will explore the possibilities.

Fellowship within Christian community is a sign of good health. St. Paul's has a history of being a parish that likes to offer lots of fellowship opportunities. For us to grow as a parish, we must grow in our understanding with each other. This requires us to be in fellowship, in relationship with one another. Not all of this fellowship has to take place under this roof, but an important element of spiritual health is to interact with other Christians in order to grow into the full stature of Christ.

Participation in Christian formation is important for our spiritual growth and wellness. In last years report to you, I pledged to offer more adult opportunities throughout the year and my challenge to you was for you to attend something. As I look who participates in EFM and who has attended our classes, I think we have done much better and for that I am grateful.

Our children formation classes continue to be strong, though they are harder to weigh. One Sunday we have 20 kids processing up the aisle as they go off to Sunday school, and the next Sunday there is only 1. As we look at this we have to realize that families operate differently than they once did. Not all parents have their children every Sunday. Many of our children are brought by their grandparents, and they don't have them every Sunday either. The sign of a healthy Sunday school program is that we have one. We offer it every week, no matter how many children are here to attend. I know this is hard on the teachers who have to prepare for 20 children, and I understand their frustration when they get to nurture only 1. I am very thankful for their commitment to offer Sunday school each and every week. The commitment is a sign of a healthy church.

As I mentioned earlier, evangelism is not something we do well. Simply put, we must be willing to extend an invitation to others. We must begin inviting people to worship with us and to join us for special events. Another aspect of Evangelism is to welcome and nurture those whom God's sends us. We are a welcoming congregation, which is a healthy. One of our growth areas is to find more ways in which we can incorporate new members into the life of the church. The more we incorporate new people into the life of the church, the fewer cliques will form.

Church membership is not a helpful tool to determine if a church is healthy. Though membership is not, our average Sunday attendance is a good measure of our wellness.

In 2011 our average Sunday attendance was 135 people. This year our average attendance dropped to 130. A drop in attendance is not a healthy sign. As the rector, it is very concerning to me that the average number of people we see on Sundays has dropped. I find it confusing that we have so many visitors and so many new members, yet our attendance is lower. What this tells me is that we are doing a good job of welcoming new people, yet we are not noticing when our longer term members are not showing up. We must take the time to look around to see who is missing and we as individuals must contact them to see if they are okay and to strengthen those relationships.

Without a goal for evangelism we will fail to live into our purpose to exist in the first place; to be a place for people to worship God, a place where people get fed, and a place in which to be Christ's loving hands in this world.

In order to find our evangelism goal we have to look at what our Easter Day attendance. This past Easter Day our attendance is recorded as 227 people. In reality, many of us attended both morning services, so let's knock that down to 200 individuals. Our Evangelism goal is to raise our average Sunday attendance to 200 spread over all three services. This may sound like a lot, but it is not. This past year we reached an attendance of 162 on three different regular Sundays. These Sundays are the times that most of you showed up on the same week. This means that our first step to reaching our evangelism goal is for all of us to attend worship more regularly. Once a month is not really enough for us to grow into being spiritually well. After our own commitment grows, all we have to do

is invite someone else into our community. It won't take long before 38 more people become regular attending members and we reach our goal of 200.

See...there's nothing to it!

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul is wrestling with the church in Corinth about what it means to be the church. It was difficult for them and it was easy to tell that they were not healthy. Though a little conflict can sometimes be a good thing, the congregation Paul is writing to is experiencing a lot of it. They were struggling with their diversity and being able to live into the equality the Gospels teach us.

Being able to live into our diversity is a sign of a healthy parish. I have said it many times and am still amazed about St. Paul's ability to live into our diversity. Our congregation is made up of people who are as far to the left as possible all the way to people who are as far to the right as possible. This diversity is in both the realms of politics and theology. For the most part I don't know where people stand within this diverse spectrum. THIS is a sign of congregational health.

Though we could probably use a little conflict to help us seek a new vision and mission for our parish, I'm really glad we are not conflicted right now. Even though we are not in conflict, I think Paul's words can help us become even healthier than we are today.

Paul Writes, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts."

A spiritually healthy parish is not one that is perfect. It is not the one that has the best clergy, the best worship, the best education class, the best stewardship, the best outreach, or the best evangelism. A healthy parish is one whose members continue each day with God's help, to live into who God has called us to be. I am blessed that you allow me to be your rector, your priest, and a member of your special community.

Amen.

## February Coming Events



Saturday	Feb. 2, 2013	Daughters of the King	10:00 am
Sunday	Feb. 3, 2013	“Souper Bowl” Sunday	
Monday	Feb. 4, 2013	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 6, 2013	Empty Bowls Meeting	6:00 pm
Thursday	Feb. 7, 2013	Healing Service with Holy Communion	6:00 pm
Saturday	Feb. 9, 2013	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Saturday	Feb. 9, 2013	Gilligan’s Island Party	5:00 pm
Tuesday	Feb. 12, 2013	Pancake Supper (5:30p to 7:00p)	5:30 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 13, 2013	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	12:10 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 13, 2013	Ash Wednesday Liturgy	6:00 pm
Thursday	Feb. 14, 2013	Valentine’s Day	
Thursday	Feb. 14, 2013	Stations of the Cross w/Holy Communion	6:00 pm
Sunday	Feb. 17, 2013	Adult Preparation Class: Confirmation, Reaffirmation, Reception & Adult Baptism (3:00 to 4:30)	3:00 pm
Monday	Feb. 18, 2013	President’s Day ( <i>office closed</i> )	
Wednesday	Feb. 20, 2013	Lenten Soup & Study ( <i>study from 6-7</i> )	5:30 pm
Thursday	Feb. 21, 2013	Lenten Study ( <i>Study, same as Wed.</i> )	11:00 am
Thursday	Feb. 21, 2013	Stations of the Cross w/ Holy Communion	6:00 pm
Sunday	Feb. 24, 2013	Adult Preparation Class: Confirmation, Reaffirmation, Reception & Adult Baptism (3:00 to 4:30)	3:00 pm
Monday	Feb. 25, 2013	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 27, 2013	Lenten Soup & Study	5:30 pm
Thursday	Feb. 28, 2013	Lenten Study ( <i>Study, same as Wed.</i> )	11:00 am
Thursday	Feb. 28, 2013	Stations of the Cross w/Holy Communion	6:00 pm

### Recurring Events

Rector’s Sabbath is every Tuesday

AA meets every Monday at 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Choir Practice (Check with your Choir Director)

Praise Team (Check with your Team Leader)

AA (Women’s group) meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Al-Anon meets every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Classroom 40

Food Pantry is open every Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Gam-Anon meets every Thursday 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

# WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE February 1 thru February 28

\*\*\* rev. 1/28/13

Day	Date	Time	Service	Lectors			Eucharistic Ministers		Healing Ministers	Ushers	Projector	Altar Guild	Sunday School Teachers
				OT	Psalms	NT/Prayers	EM1	EM2					
Su	2/3/13	9:00 a.m.	4th	Youth		Youth	Youth	Youth	Pattie R	Dick S/Steve S	Jody	Dianne M/Margaret B	Family Service
		11:00 a.m.	After	K Lightfoot	K Lightfoot	H Stevens	Victoria S	Pat E		Mike E/Shirley R			
		5:00 p.m.	Epiphany	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer				
Su	2/10/13	9:00 a.m.	Last	H Burkhardt		S Schultz	Fran D	Tracee R	Tricia W	Bob B/Jeff D	Peggy	Pam & Sarah L	Jeannine F & Erin & Keith A
		11:00 a.m.	after	V Sidener	V Sidener	D Smith	Dan B	Barb S	Mike E	Jack S/Walt C			
		5:00 p.m.	Epiphany	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer				
We	2/13/13	12:05 p.m.	Ash	V Sidener	V Sidener		D Smith	Patti S				Altar Guild	
		6:00 p.m.	Wednesday	N Fleming	N Fleming	M English	P Entwistle	M Entwistle	Dick S				
Su	2/17/13	9:00 a.m.	1st	B Stracner		L Mandas	Deb S	Patti S	Marge P	Dan W/Janice W	Mel	Patti S/Lynne S	Sheri M & Heather B
		11:00 a.m.	Sunday	M Mitchell	M Mitchell	D Smith	Barb S	Victoria S	Connie P	Jack S/Mike E		Eileen C	
		5:00 p.m.	Lent	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer				
Su	2/24/13	9:00 a.m.	2nd	T Woodliff		L Kennedy	Gene C	Mike E	Brenda S	Dick S/Dave S	John	Dianne M/Margaret B	Nancy L & Ellen H
		11:00 a.m.	Sunday	M Bouzek	M Bouzek	P Mayer				Dan B/Shirley R			
		5:00 p.m.	Lent	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer		Volunteer				