The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards, Bishop
The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector
The Rev. Chip Arnold,
Associate Priest

The Rev. Sherryl Netzler, Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

October 2013

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SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:00 am Contemporary Praise11:00 am Traditional with organ & choir5:00 pm Traditional without music

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



Do you have vision? Without vision it is easy to get lost and become complacent. This is the case in all aspects of our lives, be it personal, professional, family, friends etc.

This is also true about our spiritual lives and with our relationship with God.

What is the plan? Is it really something worth doing? Why is it important? Is it possible to accomplish? What resources are needed and who will help accomplish it? What is the hope to gain from it? Is there a willingness to adjust the plan along the way?

Churches are the same way. Without vision, a church can get lost and become complacent. Without of vision we can lose sight of why it is we exist as a community. Without a vision we can lose sight of what we are doing now and what we think God might want us to do in the future.

Do you have vision for your relationship with God? Does St. Paul's?
I ask that you wrestle with these two questions.

My hope is that soon, you will have an opportunity to share your answers with me.

Peace,



NEXT REST AREA 40 YEARS

The Bishop's Corner

by the Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards



Here's a paradox for you. I believe (that doesn't mean I opine, that it think this is probably right – it means this s a conviction on which I base my life, this the basket in which I place my existential chips) – I believe evangelism is the most

important thing we are on this earth to do. But I don't worry much about the church folks who are against evangelism, hate the word, and oppose all our efforts to do it. The reason I don't mind them is that those folks are often the best evangelists; while the ones who claim to support evangelism are actually gatekeepers excluding people form the church.

I want to name the major obstacles to evangelism, the barriers to doing the first thing Jesus told his disciples to do, proclaim the good news. People opposed to evangelism are not the problem. We have far larger obstacles.

There are plenty of good methods for evangelism, effective, proven methods. But churches use them only a little if at all. They don't use them because the congregations are not spiritually evangelistic. Even if the staff used the proven methods, they wouldn't work unless the congregation is authentically evangelistic. So the barriers to evangelism are really spiritual issues inside each congregation. These barriers are killers for many congregations, but only minor problems in others. It's a matter of degree and we can work on the degree.

THE WRONG MOTIVATION.

The biggest barrier to evangelism is the wrong motivation, which results in something that

pretends to be evangelism but is actually just a sales pitch. It comes from this: "I just wish we could get some more people in the church." "I wish we had more young families." "What we need is more children in the church so we can have a Sunday School."

Those natural and common attitudes — I hear those things said in our churches all the time! — are poison to evangelism. Why? Because they aspire to lasso poor innocent people who are minding their own business, reading the newspaper on Sunday morning while eating bagels and drinking coffee, and drag them into our churches to meet our needs. We need them to prop up our institution, which we are afraid is going to die out from under us. So we solicit people to join us to meet our needs. In other words, we want to use them for our own ends.

People are pretty smart. They don't like being used. And they can smell manipulation. If we are after pledge units, a treasurer, or someone to chair building and grounds, then secular folks will run the other way and rightly so. That is not evangelism.

Evangelism is possible only if two things come together. And if they come together evangelism is inevitable. First, we have to have Jesus in our hearts. We symbolize that in the Eucharist when the people who will administer the sacrament receiving it first .We cannot give what we have not first received. If we don't have a genuine relationship with God the Son who cares for us, redeems us, and shows us the path to joy, then we have nothing to offer anyone else. If we don't have a relationship with Jesus that makes us want to share him with others, then we are dead in the water. So the starting point is our own spirituality, our own discovery of mercy and blessing.

Second, we have to have the other person in our hearts. If we don't care about the well

being of the other person, then we won't share our spiritual treasure with them. We will be trying to get something from them instead. But when we have the other person in our hearts and we have Jesus in our hearts, they can't help but meet.

I had the privilege of addressing the House of Bishops this month about several things going on in Nevada, including our stewardship and evangelism. This is part of what I said:

"A few years ago I was visiting congregations. I asked them, 'What is the mission here?' .The most common answer by far was 'survival.' That is a self-defeating mission if ever there was one. Jesus said, 'He who seeks to save his life will lose it.' That seemed to be true for congregations who were trying to survive.

There are other things we could be concerned about. Our suicide rate is double the national average. Our death rate from alcoholic liver disease is 1.7 times the national average. We lead the nation in women killed in domestic violence. Las Vegas has more sexually trafficked minors than Bangkok. Our high school graduation rate is the worst in the nation. Some of us have begun to wonder if perhaps Jesus cares about those things. And if Jesus cares, maybe it's our business to care too. That would be a different sense of mission.

The final piece of the shift that I am beginning to see is Evangelism. There are two challenges. One is our methodology. The other is our motivation. As long as Evangelism is about our survival or vitality, it is self-serving, not Christ-serving. We are working to take the focus off a nostalgic wish that we had more young families. Instead, we hope to ask who are our neighbors and what do they need? Why are they committing suicide, drinking themselves to death, killing their spouses, dropping out of middle school? And what can we do about it?

Jesus may not be all they need. But Jesus is the first thing they need.

We are hoping for an authentic Evangelism that shares the love of Jesus

mediated by an accepting supportive faith community."

The motivation leads inexorably to the plan. We invite the people we care about into a community that will heal them with the love of Jesus. That will include one part God talk to nine parts godly action. But it will include both.

NOT OUR SORT DEAR

Episcopal congregations are not noted for being welcoming. There is a reason they call us "the frozen chosen." But we actually do a decent job of welcoming, even inviting, people who are like us. "Like us" means different things in different congregations. But the dynamic is the same. If new people visiting a congregation are, in whatever way the congregation feels (often unconsciously) is important, the newcomers will feel welcome and "fit right in." But newcomers who are different are not recognized.

One of our congregations has complained to me for years that they have no young adults. They are in fact an aging congregation. But I have never, not once, been to a service there that did not include young adults. I have generally not seen anyone acknowledge their presence. We sometimes seem to be downright blind and deaf to the presence of folks who are different. Congregations that claim to want children in general are sometimes hostile to families who actually dare to bring children to church – especially if the children are the wrong color.

It isn't just the church. It's human nature. They even have a term for it in marketing, "the congruity heuristic." It means "birds of a feather flock together." It is human nature. To do evangelism we have to overcome human nature with Christ nature. We have to drop the criteria that St. Paul would call "merely human" for another common criteria, our common brokenness and need for Jesus. In an AA meeting, there will be all sorts of people who differ in every way, but they all struggle with addiction. Christians all struggle with sin, mortality, and being cut off from others. We find forgiveness, life, and communion in Jesus mediated by a caring, supportive community.

This takes a constant intentionality. It takes alertness. Our limited efforts to publicize our churches tend to be aimed at people like ourselves. I even hear churches say they are focused on attracting people who are already Episcopalians. Episcopalians who are not in church probably don't want to be. They have probably been effectively inoculated against the gospel. What about all those people who don't know Jesus from Spiderman? Nevada is full of genuinely lost, alienated, lonely, despairing people - who just don't fit our demographic. They are our mission field. They are the sheep of our pasture, the people God has placed in our hand. They are the ones who need what we have. And if we truly have it, we cannot help but share it. If we are not compelled to share it, then we don't' have it.

Obviously, we overcome these barriers often enough to celebrate. I have seen some real openness to others, some real sharing of Christ, and some willingness to see the congregational make up change in many of our congregations. I celebrate that. We all should celebrate it. But the obstacles are always there and always need to be remembered so we can keep our witness to the good news of God in Christ Jesus strong, authentic, and transformative.

Jr. Warden's Report



The concrete work has been completed on the west side of the church as well as some new landscaping on the south side.

The floor in the kitchen has been steamed cleaned, but it was discovered that there was a coat of wax on the floor that will need to be stripped off before the floor can be sealed.

We will be having another outside work day on October 5 (Saturday) starting at 8:30 AM or so. The goal is to "attack" the weeds, clean out the rain gutters and general clean up. So, please come help out for a couple of hours and let's make the outside of our "house" look socially acceptable! Dick Stufflebeam will be coordinating as I have to work that day.

Ken Stine Jr. Warden

Pinterest Interest Group

Come join us on Monday, October 7th at 6 p.m. For questions call Tricia Woodliff at 200-6677 or email at triciawoodliff@hotmail.com

Pinterest

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LOVE IS NOT SHELLFISH

Monthly Receipt Summary

September 2013



For the 2013 year, we expect to receive \$210,688 from our pledge and plate income. We should average \$17,557 per month from those sources. This gives us a

guide so we can share how we are performing throughout the year in regard to our budgeted income. To account for 4 Sunday/5 Sunday months we use \$4,052 per week for the comparison.

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

01-Sep	\$3,192.00	08-Sep	\$3,683.00
15-Sep	\$2,251.00	22-Sep	\$2,340.00
		Online	\$3,090.00
Monthly To	tal		\$14,556.00

For the four week period covered we are \$1,652.00 under our goal for the period, and are \$6,471.00 below of our year-to-date expectation.

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

October in the Food Pantry

"Mama Mia, St. Paul's goes Italian!"

This month the pantry is collecting spaghetti, sauces, raviolis and pasta. Thank you for helping feed and meet the needs of those within our area.



PANTRY

Outreach Report



The Youth Room clean-up produced quite a few usable items (file cabinets, cork and white boards, a desk, and chairs) that St. Paul's no longer needed. These items, with a donated value of

\$500.00, were picked up by Education Alliance for their teacher's warehouse. Other donations for the month include \$200.00 to the Rector's Discretionary Account, \$45.00 to the Food Pantry, and \$100.00 to the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry

Patti Stine
Outreach Committee

Prayers of the People

Please help us keep our Prayer Chain List up to date. Let someone in the Prayer Chain Group or Robin in the office know each month if we are to continue to pray for your special people. Thank you.

Johne, Jack, Gina, Art, Erin, Russell, Forrest, Preston, Kim, Kathy, Russ, Pat, Keith, Kathy, Casey, Sherre, Barbara, Cole, Ronny, Phyllis, Larry, Cathy, Gene, Sharon, Gay Gay, Debby, Rev. Karen, Sue, Jameson Walker, Dan, John, Amy, Maureen, Susan, Harriet, Barb, Angela, George, Ron, Eric, Lee, Carol, Bobbi, Victoria, Jamie, Andrew, Danni, Pamela, Robert, Sarah, Sadie, Harry, Anne, Joe, Marlene, Dorothy, Bette, Sofia, Melva's family, Charlie, Wanda, Mo, Corrine's family & friends, Margie, Sarah's family, Tom's family, Sean's family, Lauren's family, Bill's family, Richard, Alexis, Bud, Brooke, Shannon, Wendy, Damon, Mickey, Shirley and Debbie.

Military: Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Tyler, Sierra, Owen, Larry, Brian and Lt. Col Bruce.

Lectio Divina Bible Study

Come and join us in the parish hall for this Holy Spirit guided study of scripture. (no homework required ©)

Combined Men's and Women's Group

Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Men's Group

Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Contact The Rev. Mike Margerum for more information. mgoodmarge@gmail.com or 775-229-2695

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.

St. Paul's Prayers & Squares

The "Prayers and Squares" ministry is a special "outreach" tool to share the love of Christ. The quilts bring a tangible example of the love we all share with those who are suffering in



body, mind or spirit. You do not have to know how to sew, or like to sew, but can also just join us for the fellowship we all share.

We meet on the second Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall from 9 A.M. to noon.

We gladly receive donations of materials, thread, etc. and cash to purchase necessary supplies.

If you would like to join us, or if you would like to request a quilt for someone, please contact Victoria Sidener 322-2375.

Youth Group: EYC



12:15 to 2:15 Sundays in the Youth Room (Meets each week unless otherwise noted)

What is EYC? EYC is an Episcopal Youth Community where all youth (and their friends) grades 6-12 are invited to come to participate. The focus will be different each week, but you can count on whatever the EYC is doing it will stimulate our growth with God, our growth with each, and our growth in serving Christ in the world.

Not sure about the EYC thing? We invite you to come and see.

EYC October Schedule



Hello youth and families! We had a busy month in September-- helping with Empty Bowls and designing a rocking youth room. It's fantastic to have a space of our own to use!

October will be a busy month as well. Here's the schedule!

October 6th-- Usual meeting times and place (12:15-2:15 youth room) for lunch (provided) fellowship, and fun, hands on learning. We will be focusing this month on "Being Called By God". This Sunday will be "Being Faithful to God." We will focus on doing the right thing, even when it may seem difficult.

October 13th-- X-Marks the Spot. We will be meeting earlier this Sunday (10:15 am) for an adventure! X- Marks the Spot is a scavenger hunt activity in downtown Reno where we will be split into groups to compete against each other and other groups. I will email out details

next week when I am given the first clue by X-Marks the Spot!

October 20th-- Usual meeting time and place for lunch, fellowship, and learning focusing on being called by God and living in hope when things seem hopeless.

October 27th-- Rake and Run! We will be gathering at 12:15 to scarf down lunch and then travel to those of our congregation who aren't able to get their own leaves raked to do a "rake and run". This is a great opportunity for our youth to make a difference to those in our congregation!

Feeding The Youth Group

Would you like to cook (or provide) Sunday lunch for 10 of our youth and their leaders on a once every couple of months rotation? Please sign-up in the Narthex. THANKS!

Youth Group Coat Drive

It has started getting colder, so it's time to clean out the closet! The Youth Group is collecting gently used and new coats during the month of October. Pile them in the narthex and we'll take care of them. Thanks!!

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THIS IS THE SEVENTIETH TIMES SEVENTH
TIME I'VE FORGIVEN YOUR BASEBALL THROUGH
MY WINDOW ... THIS IS THE LAST TIME!

St. Paul's Garden Project

Do you like the idea of St. Paul's having a Parish Garden? We are looking to transform the grassy area in the back of the building into a raised garden paradise. If you would like to help make this happen we could use your help.

We are going to need to strip the grass, raise the boxes, install drip lines, etc., and we need to raise about **\$1,500** to pay for it. Yes...we could really use your help!

This project will help benefit our parishioners as well as feed the hungry from the pantry. If you have questions, or if you want to donate your skills and funding to the project, please contact The Rev. Mike Margerum at mgoodmarge@gmail.com or 775-229-2695.

Epistle Ecology Shorts



Transportation: 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning the engine on and off. Turn off your engine when you are sitting for more than 10 seconds, especially near

children and in areas where pollution levels are already high. This Eco-tip is provided by Green Faith, www.greenfaith.org.

"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 "Hill Gang" holds "once-in-a-while" quarterly meetings.

The next meeting of the "Hill Gang" will be Wednesday evening, October 23rd, 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.

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

Oktoberfest Nov. 2nd



Oktoberfest will be held two days late this year. We will celebrate it on Saturday, November 2nd from 5:00 pm. To 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-12

years of age and free under 5. We will have non-alcoholic beverages as well as Dan Bouzek's homemade beer. All funds raised will go to the pay for the repair of the kitchen floor and if there is any leftover it will be put in the fund that helps keep the electronics working in the church. We are not selling tickets this year...just pay at the door.

Upcoming Funerals

Corinne Jones: October 13th at 2:00 p.m.

John Engdahl: October 24th at 3:00 p.m.

Please continue to keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Got Shoes?

Deacon Mike is collecting new and gently used **men's shoes** to donate to the Restitution Center. The Restitution Center helps inmates transition from being incarcerated into finding jobs upon release. There is a barrel in the narthex for you to put the shoes. Thank you.

October Coming Events



Sunday Oct. 6, 2013 EYC (Check the Schedule Sunday Oct. 6, 2013 Rector's Book Study 3:00 pm Sunday Oct. 6, 2013 5 o'clock service "Blessing of the animals" 5:00 pm Monday Oct. 10, 2013 Pinterest Interest Group 6:00 pm Thursday Oct. 10, 2013 Lectio Divina – Bible Study 11:00 am Thursday Oct. 10, 2013 Healing Service with Holy Eucharist 6:00 pm Thursday Oct. 10, 2013 NO Men's Bible Study Group Priday/Saturday Friday/Saturday Oct. 11, 2013 Diocesan Convention Fri. & Sat. in Fallon Saturday Oct. 12, 2013 Prayers and Squares 9:00 am Sunday Oct. 13, 2013 EYC (Check the Schedule Sunday Oct. 13, 2013 Funeral, Corinne Jones/with reception 2:00 pm Monday Oct. 14, 2013 Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm Thursday Oct. 17, 2013 Lectio Divina – Bible Study 11:00 am Thursday Oct. 17, 2013 Men's Bible Study Group 7:00 pm Saturday Oct. 19, 2013	Saturday	Oct. 5, 2013	Daughters of the King	10:00 am
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	Thursday	Oct. 31, 2013	NO Men's Bible Study Group	

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 Alanon 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

		8	RSHIP	LEAD	WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE	XED X		ctobe	r 1 thru	J Octo	October 1 thru October 31st	* * *	rev. 10/1/13	
8	**	i			Lectors	ors		Eucharistic Ministers	Ministers	Healing				ChurchSchool
Da Da	Bat Bat		Service	티	Psalm	١	Intercessor	EM1	EM2	Ministers	<u>Ushers</u>	Projector	Altar Guild	<u>Teachers</u>
ng.	10/6/13	9:00 a.m.	20th	youth		youth	youth	youth	youth	Patti R	Dick S/Steve S	Mel	Dianne M/Margaret B Family Service	Family Service
		11:00 a.m.	after	Holly S	Holly S	Victoria S	Victoria S	Pat E	Mike E	Marge P	Shirley RWalt C			
		5:00 p.m.	Pentecost	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer			Volunteer			
ns	10/13/13	9:00 a.m.	21st	Mike E		Brenda S	Brenda S	Marge P	Chelsea S	Tricia W	Dave S/Jeff D	John	Pam & Sarah L	Jeannine F &
		11:00 a.m.	after	Susan G	Susan G	Millie M	Millie M	Barb S	Victoria S	Linda S	Jack S/Dan B			Erin & Keith A
		5:00 p.m.	Pentecost	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer			Volunteer			
Su	10/20/13	9:00 a.m.	22nd	Tricia W		Lindy M	Lindy M	Fran D	Tracee R	Connie P	Gene C/Bob B	Peggy	Patti S/Lynne S	Sheri M &
		11:00 a.m.	after	Keith L	Keith L	Mary E	Mary E	Dan B	Susan G	Mike E	Shirley R/Keith L		Eileen C	Heather B
		5:00 p.m.	Pentecost	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer			Volunteer			
ng.	10/27/13	9:00 a.m.	23rd	S Schultz		Linda D	Linda D	Patti S	Eileen C	Brenda S	Janice W/Mike E	Jody	Dianne M/Margaret B	Nancy L &
		11:00 a.m.	after	Margaret B	Margaret B	Sue O	Sue O	David G	Marge P	555	Walt C/Dan B			Ellen H
		5:00 p.m.	Pentecost	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer			Volunteer			