

The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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775-358-4474
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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

November 2014

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WHO ARE WE?

We, as St. Paul's, are a theologically diverse community who seeks to embrace our diversity in order to live through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be a place of belonging for all people.

Senior Warden's Report



November 2014

November is going to be a very busy month! Please read the bulletins and calendars to make sure you don't miss out on an event!

This is the final month of Fr. Kirk's sabbatical. I believe we are responding to all situations that have arisen. If you feel otherwise, please let me know. It has been a very interesting experience for me to find out all the things I didn't know about the operation of the church.

I've enjoyed reading the bulletin inserts that we've received from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) program. The most recent one reminds us that everything in nature, including us, comes from God.

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held on January 25, 2015 at 10 am. Vestry nominations are open with 3 positions to be filled. Margaret Bouzek, Linda Devon and Eileen Casperson all complete their 3 year terms. If you feel called to serve the parish in a different role, please contact anyone on the vestry and an application will be provided to you. This is a great way to get to know more about how the parish operates. Vestry meetings are on the second Monday from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany will all be here before you know it! We do plan on having the Epiphany Play again so watch for announcements if you would like to be involved. Just a reminder that Epiphany falls on January 4th.

As always, please feel free to contact me for any issues or concerns that you have.

Peace, Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

Beer Tasting Dinner

November 15th at 6 pm. Dan Bouzek and Tom Lightfoot have been brewing some of their favorite beers. Come and have a sample and bring along your favorite food to go with beer. We will have non-alcoholic drinks available as always.

Thanksgiving Dinner

We are planning a Thanksgiving gathering. John and Peggy Hannah are coordinating the Day. Watch for details.

Helping Hands

Have you been in a situation where you need someone to help you with meals? Maybe run a few errands? Then you might have used the Helping Hands group. We are in need of a point person for this group. If you are called to serve in this ministry, please call the church office.

The Daughters of the King

Are you not quite sure who The Daughters of the King are and what it is they do? Contact Margaret Bouzek at

Margaret.Bouzek@va.gov



or by phone at (775) 424-3767.

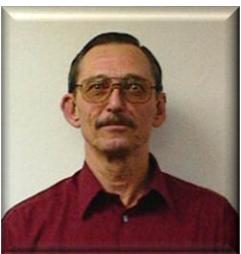
Outreach Report



The Food Pantry had donations of \$397.00 with \$207.00 of that total coming in for Empty Bowls. Other donations included \$55.00 to the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry, \$20.00 to Daughters of the King, and \$60.00 to the Clergy Discretionary account.

Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

Monthly Receipt Summary



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks Funding the Mission October 2014

For the 2014 year, we expect to receive \$237,863

from our pledge, challenge pledge, and plate income and should average \$19,822 per month from those sources. The table below helps us keep track of where we are.

28-Sep	\$2,995.00	5-Oct	\$3,977.00
12-Oct	\$2,061.00	19-Oct	\$2,788.00
26-Oct	\$2,762.00	Online	\$3,255.00
Monthly Total			\$17,838.00

We are in the stewardship season for St. Paul's, and we want to remind you how much your pledge means to our planning process. If you have not pledged before, we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so this year. If you do pledge, your timeliness means so much.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity, and is posted in the narthex. You can direct questions to Dick Stufflebeam, or Patti Stine. (Email:dick@stpaulssparks.org)

AN IMPORTANT NOTE: By all your gifts, we are blessed. For all your gifts we are grateful.

November in the Food Pantry

"Give blessings"



Bring in items for Thanksgiving meals, stuffing, gravy mixes, mashed potato buds, veggies and cranberry sauce.

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.

Prayers and Squares Craft Sales

Prayers and Squares sewers have been creating items other than quilts to raise money for their program. We will have aprons, baby chair seat holders, placemats and other items for sale on November 30th between the 9 am and 11 am services. Items will be set up in the Parish Hall.

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

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.



Prayer Requests

Barb, Jack, Gina, Forrest, Diane, Russ, Pat, Mike E., Barbara, Larry, Rev. Karen, Anne, Sofia, Keith & family, Mickey, Shirley, Philip, Nancy, Nanette, Erin, Preston, Jameson Walker, Pattie, Julie, Casey, Kathy, Richard, Karen, Sven, Gracie, Shelly, Sharon, Stacey, Jaemmie, Vanessa, Jennifer, Gene, Ed, Koressa, Rev. Bill, Virginia, Mariesa, Vernice, Marilyn, Fiona, Ruth, Sian & family, Tishelle, Michael, Lisa, Alyssandra, Kay, Erma, Cherie, Buck, Brenda, Alex, Dick, Trudy, Lorrie, Harry, Sherrie, Ray, Mike G, Mary, Maegan, Sam, Nicole, Dave, Bob, Karen-Marie, Stephany, Linda, Amy, Paul's family, Sandi, Amanda, Gil and Rita.

Military: Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Tyler, Sierra, Owen, Brian, Lt. Col Bruce, Jordan, Evanne and Carl.

Youth Group EYC



EYC is an Episcopal Youth Community where all youth (and their friends) grades 6-12 are invited to come and 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 other, and our growth in serving Christ in the world. Not sure about the EYC thing? Come give it a try! We invite you to come join us for food, fellowship and fun!

Jon and Tia Mittelstadt will be the adults leading EYC while Fr. Kirk and Tricia are on sabbatical. Jon and Tia have worked with St. Paul's EYC for the past year and have led youth group programs in their previous churches for over 20 years.

If you are new to St. Paul's we welcome you to join us. If you have any questions, please call Tia or Jon Mittelstadt at 775-722-3469 or by email at tia.mittel@gmail.com or jon.mittel@gmail.com.

EYC will meet in the youth room from 10:30 AM until 12:30 PM unless listed differently in the schedule. Please join us for the following activities in November:

November 2: Leaf Raking- Meet at 11:30 AM instead of 10:30 AM

Daylight Savings is today so set your clocks back (fall back) or you will be early! There is no 9 AM worship service today, only the 10 AM, so we will meet at **11:30 AM instead of 10:30 AM**. Meet in the youth room where we will eat lunch and then go rake leaves for some of the elderly people in our congregation. Please bring work gloves and your favorite rake. Be sure to wear warm clothes (but not too warm because you will be raking and bagging) and sturdy shoes.

November 9: Growing with God

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We will eat lunch, watch a video and have a discussion. Games to follow!

November 16: Game Day

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We will be eating lunch and playing some fun group games!

November 23: Bowling at Coconut Bowl

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We will carpool to Coconut Bowl and go bowling! We

will eat lunch at Coconut Bowl and return to the church by 12:30. The youth fund will pay for one game of bowling, pizza and drinks. Bring extra money if you want to do other activities.

November 30: No meeting

No meeting today due to Thanksgiving holiday.
Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

Acolyte Training Coming in the Spring

There will be a regional Acolyte Training held at St. Paul's this spring. As soon as a date is determined we will let all the acolytes know.

... We Are Thankful

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. Psalm 28:7

Watch this space in the Epistle each month for stories of gratitude and belonging. If you are ready to share your story, please contact any member of Vestry. We will thank you for your help! This month Jon Mittelstadt shared his answers.



What about St. Paul's makes it a church home for you? The cards in the pews say it so well -- All are welcome and we put aside our differences to focus together on living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

How have you experienced God's generosity in your life? In your church? In my life, I have been blessed with parents, in-laws, wife and kids who love me for who I am through good

times and bad. Sports is also a blessing; I'm a jack of all sports, master of none. It was a definite blessing to throw a football with Jason in the backyard today! In church, being chair of the stewardship team has been a wonderful opportunity to think about my spiritual journey. We had two stewardship workshops this past year and the stewardship team has had great discussions at our monthly meetings. This has taught me how important thankfulness and generosity are to living the joyful life God wants for us. It's been equally wonderful to get to know Fr. Kirk, Dick, Lynne, Nancy and Margaret through working together on stewardship.

What is one thing about St. Paul's you are most thankful for? I love the blend of traditional liturgy and praise music at the contemporary service. The music is so beautiful that Tia and I thought it was a recording the first time we attended. The communal worship and liturgy centers me each week. It's the perfect blend for me.

Please share a favorite story about your time at St. Paul's and/or tell a little about one of your favorite church activities. One of my favorite church activities was the Gilligan's Island party. When I saw the awesome painting/cut-out of the characters, the coconut bikinis, banjo music, island food, etc. I knew St. Paul's was the church for me!

Thanks for sharing with us Jon!

Pinterest Interest Group

Come join us in the parish hall on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and fun crafts!





CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

Need Baked Goods for a Special Party? Meeting? Birthday?



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 or Hayley 626-8519. Visit the website for a pricelist and pictures of their past works. Check out Sally Sue's Bakery at www.sarahlightfoot.blogspot.com

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

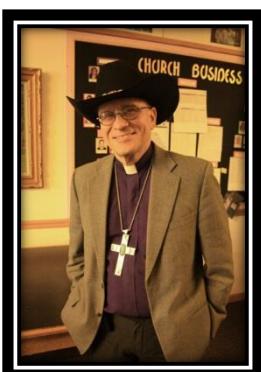
Mondays: AA Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

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

Thursdays: Gama-Non Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

and Ala-Non Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Bishop Dan's 8th EPISTLE TO THE NEVADANS



What are Bishops For?

When my wife and I first told an Episcopal priest we wanted to join the Church, he acted a bit befuddled by it. He said, "Well, we don't have a bishop right now." It wasn't the warmest of welcomes, but it did give me a hint that there was something I needed to learn about the Episcopal Church. There were some things for which bishops were required. But why? When that diocese called a new bishop, it was a big deal. But still, I wasn't sure what it was about.

Since then, I have encountered all sorts of hostility to bishops qua bishops, not that they were individually overbearing or oppressive, but simply that they were bishops. I recently read a Face Book post from an Episcopalian who loves General Convention and thinks the Church would be perfectly fine if we could get rid of the House of Bishops. Some of us just don't like having them around. But what exactly is so offensive about bishops remains unclear. We make them necessary. We name our Church "Episcopal," which identifies us by the fact that we have bishops. But a lot of us would like to see driven into the sea -- despite our choice to join a Church that identifies itself by the very name "Episcopal."

I later learned in Church history that the Puritans, who were committed to eradication of the episcopate, called bishops "pompous, pretentious, popish prelates." The anti-bishop sentiment is part and parcel of our Calvinist-Puritan heritage, which in turn is linked to democracy. So Bishops are associated with Catholicism and Monarchy - two targets of knee jerk opposition.

But what are Bishops really? The office of Bishop is described in the New Testament, for example I Timothy 3: 1. Traditionally Catholics have read the New Testament as prescribing three orders of ministry: Deacons, Priests, and Bishops. Protestants have insisted that "Bishop" and "Priest" were interchangeable terms, referring to the same office. Who knows? It is quite possible that different Biblical authors used the term with different meanings and that the structures of congregations in various places differed in New Testament times. But early on, at least by the time of St. Ignatius of Antioch (35 - 98 CE), the three orders of ministry were solidly in place. His Epistles, written on the road to his martyrdom in Rome, are the first texts setting out the role of the Bishop in the Church.[i] See particularly his Epistle to the Smyrnaeans:

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/ignatius-smyrnaeans-roberts.html>

Since Ignatius' day, the proper role of Bishops has been unity. We are called first to personally symbolize and embody unity and second to work practically to form and sustain unity within the Body of Christ. I call it a cruciform unity extending one direction in time and the other in space. We symbolize our unity through time by the practice of apostolic succession. Our pedigree, however, flawed, extending back through time as we are made bishops by the previous bishops who became bishops in like manner represents the continuity of the Church from Jesus to the believers of today.

Apostolic succession is the symbol part of unity through time. But the reality of continuity through time is the continuity of the mission. That's where it takes more than a pedigree to make a bishop. The crucial second part of our task is practical, functional. It is to remember the faith and the mission of the apostles, that is to say the Great Commission, the Creeds, and the teachings of Jesus, and to keep that faith and mission front and center in the attention of the Church. There are always fads and fashions coming and going in Church circles. We like something new. And that is fine. It keeps us fresh and alert. It adapts the Church to the culture just enough to make sure the culture can understand what we are saying and what we are doing. That is all good. We need inventive people to innovate. But we also need the stodgy old bishops to keep telling us of "the old, old story of Jesus and his love." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0aiahlo8Sw>

This House of Bishops meeting in Taiwan puts me in mind of our role of creating and maintaining unity through space. Here I want to start with one of the four symbols of the bishop's office,[ii] the crosier, or staff. It has taken on different symbolic meanings through the centuries. But there are two theories about the origin of crosiers. One is that we were just copying the staffs carried by pagan Roman augurs while they were predicting the future. But I favor the other theory. Priests and deacons did their ministry in their own local communities. They were pretty much planted in place. But the bishops were always on the road. They travelled from town to town visiting existing congregations and planting new ones. They carried walking sticks for purely practical reasons and the sticks came to symbolize the nature of their ministry.[iii] Today, bishops go from place to place to connect the people in each place to the people in all the other places. My job is to remind Episcopalians in Elko

that there are Episcopalians in Pahrump and vice versa. A bishop is a weaver, a spinner, a networker, a message bearer, a matchmaker.

So why do bishops meet with each other? I bet you've guessed it. We connect the dioceses to each other. It isn't so much with programs, projects, and governance decisions as with names, faces, and stories. In the hallway, the Bishop of Haiti says to me, "Have you heard from Guillene?"

"I just know she has a field placement," I say.

"She is in the process now," he tells me.

Guillene is a young woman from Le Beaux in the mountains of Haiti. I met her there on a mission trip years and years ago. Our parish sponsored her thorough college and I have been her confidant as she struggles to become a priest in a place where women are new to priesthood. Her bishop is happy to tell me good news he knows I will be glad to hear.

On a coffee break, I approach the Bishop of Louisiana and ask him if he knows which New Orleans parish Nevada Barr worships at. I tell him about her novels and her book of spiritual reflections. He says he'll track her down for me. I want to invite her to speak at an event someday.

The new Bishop of Fon du Lac tells me about an issue in Native Ministries there and I tell him about my experience here. Related to the whole question of how we work things out, I also tell the story of how we bishops used the African Indaba process to break our gridlock on same gender blessings in 2009.

I ask the Bishop of Chicago for permission to celebrate, preach, and teach at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church in his diocese. Our niece and her family worship there, they have read God of Our Silent Tears, and have invited me to visit. He gives me permission and a warm welcome. I ask the Bishop of Milwaukee permission to preach and teach at Nashotah House seminary. He says I don't need his permission (I don't need it. I just want it.) and extends a cordial welcome including to get together socially.

I happen upon the Bishop of Missouri. Over lunch, he tells me about their experience in Ferguson during the troubles so far, and what he foresees down the road. It isn't just a story in the newspaper now. It is about real people, our people.

The Assisting Bishop of Atlanta brings me greetings from members of my former parish, St. Francis, Macon. We talk over how things were there in my time and how they have been since. Talking with him leaves me feeling good about my time there. The parish is doing well.

Several bishops ask me how it's going in Nevada and I tell them about the things that were hard in 2014 but how those very same things look hopeful for 2015. They nod and share helpful stories from their experience, affirming my sense that we are doing ok.

The bishop's network in little sub groups. At HOB we meet officially in table groups during sessions. I am sitting between Texas and Alaska this time. The College for Bishops classes go out to dinner as a class. I am class of 08. We decorate the head and tale of an otherwise devoured sea bass and take pictures of it. Over the course of a year, the bishops of each Province meet. (I am Province 8). The

Bishops of Small Dioceses meet. Support groups (mine is the High Desert Bishops) meet. Bishops with common interests, like Bishops United Against Gun Violence, meet. And so we are networked to each other and bridge our people across the miles, the mountains, the forests, and the deserts. - even the oceans.

There is a lot poured into this container we call episcopacy. It all has to do with unity, with relationship - a matter on which all of us, the bishops included, are a bit ambivalent. Sometimes it would be so much easier to "go our own way." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpX9OKS2yQk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ul-cZyuYq4>

That's natural. Christianity sees Reality as a proliferating diversity (to borrow a term from the deconstructionists); hence, the natural, even healthy, impulse to go our own way, to kick against the traces. But Christianity sees Reality as diversity that dances within an essential unity. The bishops are responsible for the unity in the Church. We are the nagging reminders of our connection to each other including those inconvenient people we have gone before. We are connected, connected, connected. And that sometimes constraining connection is our lifeline.

[i] Contemporary Epistles by St. Clement of Rome do not so much describe the role of the Bishop as exemplify it. When the still-rowdy Corinthians had deposed their priests, the Bishop of Rome at least claimed the authority to challenge them. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Epistle_of_Clement

[ii] The four symbols are crosier, miter, ring, and pectoral cross.

[iii] Later when Emperor Constantine legalized us and we became the Roman Empire at prayer, the crozier came to represent authority as the staffs or scepters carried by Imperial officials represented their power. Later, after the fall of the Roman Empire, in the Western Church we rather softened and sentimentalized the symbol into a shepherd's staff.

Blessing Always,

Bishop Dan



Coming Events



November 2014

Saturday	Nov. 1, 2014	Daughters of the King **cancelled**	10:00 am
Sunday	Nov. 2, 2014	<i>Daylight Savings Ends</i> (Fall back an hour!)	
Sunday	Nov. 2, 2014	All Saints' Day one combined morning Service	10:00 am
Sunday	Nov. 2, 2014	Parish Potluck following morning service	
Monday	Nov. 3, 2014	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Wednesday	Nov. 5, 2014	New time for Healing Service	12:30 pm
Saturday	Nov. 8, 2014	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Sunday	Nov. 9, 2014	<i>Ingathering Sunday</i>	
Sunday	Nov. 9, 2014	Book Study	3:00 pm
Monday	Nov. 10, 2014	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Saturday	Nov. 15, 2014	Daughters of the King	10:00 am
Saturday	Nov. 15, 2014	<i>It's a Beer Challenge</i> (come vote for your favorite)	5:00 pm
Sunday	Nov. 23, 2014	St. Paul's Blood Drive	9:00 am
Tuesday	Nov. 25, 2014	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Thursday	Nov. 27, 2014	St. Paul's Thanksgiving Dinner	1:00 pm
Thursday	Nov. 27, 2014	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> (office closed)	
Friday	Nov. 28, 2014	<i>Family Day</i> (office closed)	
Sunday	Nov. 30, 2014	First Sunday of Advent (Kirk Returns!!)	

Recurring Events

EYC meets every Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Room.

Rector is on Sabbatical through November, 2014

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

Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays or (Check with your Choir Director)

Praise Team 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays or (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 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

Lectio Divina – Bible Study meets Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Healing Service with Holy Eucharist Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. &

Thursday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study Thursday evenings @ 7:00 p.m.

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

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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E-Mail: office@stpaulssparks.org
Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here

*St. Paul's
Episcopal Church*



Walking Together in Faith

- Sun., 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Contemporary*
- Sun., 9:05 a.m. Children's Sunday School*
- Sun., 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Traditional*
- Sun., 5:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharistic, No Music*
- Wed., 12:30 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Communion*
- Thur., 6:00 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Communion*