

The Epistle

Happy New Year

2015

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
PO Box 737

Sparks, Nevada 89432
775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

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

January 2015

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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.

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



As I sit to write this, I am reminded that Christmas is not over. Today is only the 3rd day of Christmas. If I was singing the song, today's present would be three French hens.

I want to say something about gifts, since the gift piece only made it into two of my three Christmas sermons.

I have heard it said that Christmas is NOT all about the gifts. Would you agree? Well I don't. I think Christmas IS all about the gifts, but not just any gifts... a couple of special gifts. The first gift is one that we receive. We receive the gift of God becoming human, and through that relationship we find God's grace. God's grace is a gift, the best gift we can receive at Christmas.

The way the whole Christmas gift thing works is that we get some and we give some. The second special gift of Christmas is one that we give away. As we receive God's grace we are to become the Light of Christ for other people; we are to share the Light. The giving of the Light of Christ can be done in so many ways, but they all have one thing in common. When we share Christ's Light we are sharing God's salvific story of love in the Word made flesh and there is not a greater gift you could offer anyone.

So... Christmas is not about presents, but it is all about the gifts. Join us on Sunday, January 4th at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate the Wise Men; not the presents they bring, but the gift they received and the gift of Christ's birth story they shared with the world.

Peace,



Senior Warden's Report

January 2014



This will be my last epistle article! I am concluding my 6 year term as your Senior Warden after our Annual Meeting on January 25th.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity, it has been an honor. I won't be going away just stepping back.

There is a lot going on at St. Paul's. There are many ministries and events that go on every day all year long. I encourage you to find your ministry or project at the church. As Fr. Kirk has been telling us in his sermons, since he has returned from sabbatical that COMMUNITY is important in a person's life. If you don't have a community, you can find yourself drifting and lost, without purpose. Don't let that happen to you!

We were saddened to learn of Barb Smith's passing on December 18th. Jack Sweeney's family laid him to rest on December 14th at a private committal service. This is life. We are on a journey from the moment of our birth until we go to our final rest. What happens on the journey depends on the decisions we make. I try to remember I'm not in charge of the journey. There are times when I think I am and get a not so gentle nudge to get back on the right path! Staying connected with like-minded people helps me on this journey. We don't have to agree all the time, but we stay in COMMUNITY. I just read a book that has brought back to me how important it is to accept people where they are on their journey. We may see someone way off to the right or left and that is okay. It is where they are. It may be that we are the ones to the right or left. Just remember we are all moving and it is good to do that together. Margaret Bouzek

Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25th, 2015, 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.

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.

Monthly Receipt Summary

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



This is the final Epistle Report for the 2014 year. But in order for it to be timely, the Christmas week activity will be reported in January's Epistle.

30-Nov	\$4,181.00	7-Dec	\$3,617.00
14-Dec	\$3,702.00	21-Dec	\$2,895.00
		Online	\$4,535.00
Monthly Total			\$18,930.00

Our pledge program is basically over, and we have received 98 pledges to date. If you have not made a pledge yet, it isn't too late and it is so important to our final steps in the budget process.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains details 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)

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

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! 

Outreach Report



Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and was able to attend at least one holiday service.

The Food Pantry received donations of \$1077.00, \$20.00 for pictures with Santa, and \$192.00 in Food

Pantry sweatshirt sales. Other outreach for the month included donations of \$45.00 to Prayers and Squares, \$50.00 to Daughters of the King, \$50.00 to the Salvation Army, \$60.00 to LEAN for their school supplies drive, and \$50.00 to the Clergy Discretionary Fund. Prayers and Squares/Daughters of the King received a total of \$323.77 from their Christmas sale.

Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

January in the Food Pantry

"Let's pamper and hug the Baby"



Diapers and wipes... and of course food for the entire family is always welcome!

Epiphany Play and Celebration

January 4th, 10:00 a.m.

The Christmas season is not complete without the arrival of the Wisemen. Come and celebrate this big event and support our St. Paul's actors as they retell the story with a brand new play. This play will be held during the first part of our combined 10:00 a.m. worship service, which will be followed by Holy Communion.

Following the Epiphany Play and worship, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a "Winter Picnic" and the crowning of the next Epiphany King or Queen. There will be signups for Sloppy Joes, Hot dogs, chips, salads and beverages as well as help setting up and cleaning.

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

St. Paul's Prayers & Squares

Have you looked into the display of Prayer Quilts in the Narthex lately? There are a variety of "thank you" notes from those who have received the quilts! Their thanks are so heart-warming as they tell how much the quilts and prayers meant to them in their time of trouble and distress! Please



remember the supply we have when you hear of a dear friend or family member who needs a boost in spirits. The letter recently read by Julia Stoddard shows what comfort and peace can come through the love and prayers of strangers. Ask Holly Stevens and others in the parish who have such great memories of the healing touch. YOU TOO can send to ones you are concerned about. See Robin in the office or call me at 322-2375, and we will see that one is selected and placed on the altar rail. Wishing you all joy, peace and love in the New Year!! Victoria Sidener"

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's family, 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, Ralphie, Shelly, Sharon, Stacey, Jaemmie, Jennifer, Gene, Ed, Koressa, Rev. Bill, Virginia, Mariesa, Vernice, Marilyn, Fiona, Robert, Kay, Cherie, Buck, Brenda, Alex, Dick, Trudy, Lorrie, Harry, Sherrie, Ray, Michael, Dale, Maegan, Sam, Nicole, Dave, Bob, Karen-Marie, Stephany, Linda, Amy, Paul's family, Sandi, Amanda, Gil, Jim's family, Bret, Cate, Brett, George, Ashley, Peadear, Tara, Tasha, Jill, the Sweeney Family, Lucy, Victoria, Ella, Vic, Lea, Kerry, Al, Clare and Jared.

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

EYC Service Activity

For this month's service activity, EYC will be creating blessing bags and we need your help! What's a blessing bag you ask? A blessing bag is a Ziplock bag stocked with food, toiletries, and other items one might need while living on the street. We will be gathering up these items until January 25th when the EYC will meet and put together the bags. Here are some ideas for the blessing bags: granola bars, cereal bars, snack crackers, peanut butter, beef jerky, raisins, applesauce cups/pouches, juice boxes, trail mix, gum, bottled water, pop top meat or sausages, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, toothbrush/toothpaste, wash cloth, soap, shampoo, lotion, comb, nail clippers, deodorant, socks, chapstick, travel sized tissues. These items can be from hotels or other travel sized items. The point is for them to fit into a gallon sized Ziplock.

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 and 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!

If you are new to St. Paul's we welcome you to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Woodliff at triciawoodliff@hotmail.com or Tia or Jon Mittelstadt at 775-722-3469 or by email at tia.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 January:

January 4: No Meeting Today

January 11: Growing with God

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We will eat lunch, watch a video and discuss. Plans for our upcoming mission project will also be discussed. Games to follow!

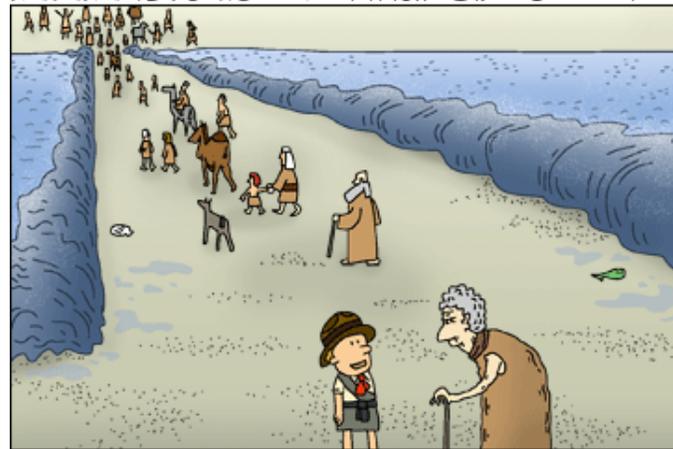
January 18: EZ Air

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We will then carpool to EZ Air Trampoline Park to jump from 11 am to noon and return to the church around 12:30. Bring \$5 to help cover the cost of this event. You need to have your parent or guardian fill out the waiver on the EZ Air website before you can jump. Please do this before the 18th.

January 25: Mission Project

Meet at our regular time of 10:30 AM. We'll work on our mission project of putting together packages of food and other items to hand out to people who are homeless. Lunch provided.

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Exodus 14)

01-03-2014

HELLO MAAM, I'M FROM TROOP 316 AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU CROSS THE RED SEA

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.

Neither group will meet on January 1st.

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

Fill a Backpack for a Legislator

The December issue of The Lutheran magazine featured an article about Advent, and how much we miss if we plunge right into the busyness of Christmas right after Thanksgiving. But the thing that struck me most in the article was an illustration by the author, Gertrud Mueller Nelson. Now that we are in the season of Epiphany, the image seems particularly appropriate. It shows the Holy Family in modern dress. Baby Jesus is sitting in a shopping cart. The family is bundled up against the weather, and father, unshaven and with a backpack on his back, pushes the cart past urban high-rises. An angel flies overhead. This could represent the flight into Egypt. But I think there is more to it than that.

Jesus came for the poor, the homeless, the dispossessed of every age, and they are very much with us today. We who do Advocacy talk about the difference between Charity and Advocacy, and we recognize that both are important. Charity is about direct aid to those in need, and Advocacy is about making structural changes in society so the causes of need go away.

Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry in Nevada (LEAN) will have an event on January 19th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day; it will involve both Charity and Advocacy. It will be a time to learn about issues that will be on the agenda of the 2015 Legislature. Since school funding will be a major issue, LEAN will be doing Charity as well. It's our way of telling legislators we're concerned about schools and we want them to be, too. Your help is needed.

All new and returning state Senators and Assembly Members have been invited. Those who attend will assemble backpacks filled with school supplies. The backpacks will be given to a low-income school of the legislator's choice. We're doing this in January, the middle of the school year, because many children and teachers have used all the supplies they started with in the fall, and there isn't money to buy more. If you're living out of a shopping cart, buying notebook paper isn't likely to be your highest priority, but doing well in school is the way up and out. That is why we're asking you to consider donating to this effort. Our Advocate, Rev. Mike Patterson, has arranged with Office Depot to buy supplies at a huge discount, so donations will go a long way. Donations can be sent to LEAN at the address above, or through your church office, marked "LEAN backpacks." If you prefer to donate items instead of cash, please use this list as a guide: Pencils, pencil bags, ballpoint pens, glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, highlighters, 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks, erasers, pocket folders, sticky notes, copy paper, lined paper.

If there are questions about this project or about LEAN, please contact Rev. Patterson (mp4675@att.net).

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Nominations

Patricia Unruh

What is your current level of participation in the life of St. Paul's and what ministries are you currently involved in, both at St. Paul's and out in the world?

I attend the Sunday 9am service. I have been trained and serve as a Healing Minister and a Lay Eucharistic Minister(LEM). I attend our healing services on Wednesday and Thursday. I am a Food Pantry volunteer and attend Lectio Devina weekly. I am part of St. Paul's Pastoral Care team serving as part of our Prayer Circle and as a Eucharistic Visitor. I am one of the LEAN communicators for St. Paul's. I am in my first year of attending Education for Ministry (EFM) classes.

Have you ever served on a parish Vestry or similar church board? If so, did you serve in a particular capacity?

At the age of 18, I first served on the Board for the Anchorage, AK, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) and was involved with membership, specifically as a communication liaison between church members and the board. I served as chair of Reconciling Ministries and co-chair of the Soup Kitchen with the First United Methodist Church in Fairbanks, AK. I have also been on the board for MCC Burlington, VT and MCC White River Jct., NH. Both churches were start up churches serving the LGBT community in both VT and NH.

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

When I was first approached to serve on Vestry, I was pleased and touched, that my gifts would be recognized as helpful to St. Paul's. My serving on Vestry is about my continuing stewardship. I believe that God calls

me to go beyond attending weekly services and contributing financially to my church. That when asked, I need to be actively involved in helping to make decisions on how the church can best serve it's congregation and the community in which it is located.

The Vestry needs both "visionaries" and "doers". Where would you fit into this mix and what do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

I have been told that I am a "modern thinker" and I believe this to be true. My physical limitations place me in a position of seeing needs that others may not be as aware of. I see myself as both a "visionary" and "doer". I believe that I am a team player. The church boards on which I have served with in the past required a great amount of co-operation and communication. I have been involved in starting three churches in three different states with an outreach to the LGBT community, which entailed having a vision for our church, making plans for building our church and then going out into the community and implementing those plans.

How do you currently see St. Paul's living into the mission of Christ?

In my short time at St. Paul's, I have been on the receiving end of the Grace of this community. I see St. Paul's as the body of Christ, a church working towards helping it's members to love God and each other. I also see St. Paul's support of the Food Pantry and LEAN as part of Christ's mission to go out and serve as witnesses of God's love in our Sparks/Reno community and to see Christ in all people.

Where do you see St. Paul's in three years?

I envision LEAN becoming an important part of serving not only the concerns of the St. Paul's congregation, but also known for advocating for our Sparks/Reno community. My hope is

that St. Paul's will also increase its membership to include People of Color and the LGBT community.

Barbara Monroy

What is your current level of participation in the life of St. Paul's and what ministries are you currently involved in, both at St. Paul's and out in the world?

Food Pantry

Have you ever served on a parish Vestry or similar church board? If so, did you serve in a particular capacity?

Yes, I have served on 3 prior Vestry's.

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

I have always enjoyed my previous opportunities to serve.

The Vestry needs both "visionaries" and "doers". Where would you fit into this mix and what do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

I consider myself both a visionary and a doer.

How do you currently see St. Paul's living into the mission of Christ?

I see St. Paul's as active in loving and serving our community.

Where do you see St. Paul's in three years?
Over the next three years I see St. Paul's continuing to grow and prosper as a vibrant part of the local community as well as the Diocese.

Al Truelove

What is your current level of participation in the life of St. Paul's and what ministries are you currently involved in, both at St. Paul's and out in the world?

I participate in church services. I sing with the choir. I help with metal repairs to the church. I fix bikes and refinish furniture for extra cash.

Have you ever served on a parish Vestry or similar church board? If so, did you serve in a particular capacity?

I have not served on the Vestry or a church board. I have sung in several church choirs.

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

Since I am retired, I want to help out more at church.

The Vestry needs both "visionaries" and "doers". Where would you fit into this mix and what do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

I consider myself a doer. My gifts for ministry revolve around building maintenance. I am also good at sharing my faith and knowledge.

How do you currently see St. Paul's living into the mission of Christ?

I believe the mission of Christ is to bring the good news of God, Jesus, and Holy Spirit to all people. St. Paul's does this well by teaching and example; for example, our Food Pantry.

Where do you see St. Paul's in three years?

Within three years I see St. Paul's increasing in outreach and membership. For example, gardening, book studies, and healing services.

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.

Worship Ministry Schedule

Go to www.StPaulsSparks.org and click on the "Ministries" tab.

Coming Events



January 2015

Thursday	Jan. 1, 2015	<i>New Year's Day!! Happy New Year Everyone!</i>	
Thursday	Jan. 1, 2015	<i>No Lectio Divina – Bible Study today</i>	
Thursday	Jan. 1, 2015	<i>No Healing Service tonight</i>	
Thursday	Jan. 1, 2015	<i>No Men's Bible Study tonight</i>	
Saturday	Jan. 3, 2015	<i>No Food Pantry today</i>	
Saturday	Jan. 3, 2015	<i>No Daughters of the King</i>	
Saturday	Jan. 3, 2015	Epiphany Dress Rehearsal	1:00 pm
Sunday	Jan. 4, 2015	Epiphany Play & Celebration	10:00 am
Sunday	Jan. 4, 2015	<i>No EYC today</i>	
Sunday	Jan. 4, 2015	<i>No 5:00 p.m. service tonight</i>	
Monday	Jan. 5, 2015	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Saturday	Jan. 10, 2015	Prayers and Squares	9:00 am
Saturday	Jan. 10, 2015	Funeral: Barbara Smith	12:00 pm
Monday	Jan. 12, 2015	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Saturday	Jan. 17, 2015	Daughters of the King	10:00 pm
Sunday	Jan. 18, 2015	Prayer Team Meeting	12:15 pm
Monday	Jan. 19, 2015	<i>Martin Luther King Day (office closed)</i>	
Thursday	Jan. 22, 2015	St. Paul's Clergy Meeting	3:30 pm
Sunday	Jan. 25, 2015	Annual Meeting & Combined Worship	10:00 am
Sunday	Jan. 25, 2015	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Sunday	Jan. 25, 2015	<i>No 5:00 p.m. service this Sunday</i>	

Recurring Events

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

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 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 12:00 noon

Healing Service with Holy Eucharist Thursday Evenings 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.

However, the pantry will be closed Jan. 3rd 2015. Reopens Wed. Jan. 7th.

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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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