

The Epistle

April

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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

April 2015

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Can be found within the
Coming Events on page 9
of this newsletter.

WHO ARE WE?

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

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



One of the most powerful teaching tools the Episcopal Church uses is the ancient way in which we worship. Through the liturgy of the Word and Sacraments, the richness we experience guides us to see Jesus and teaches us to live our lives in such a transformed way that others can see Christ in us. This could happen quickly for some, however for many of us this formation happens over time.

Though our worship is so rich and transforming, I was reminded recently of how difficult it can be for a guest or newcomer to worship with us. We do get some newcomers who are familiar with our style of worship, though many have never walked into a church before, or they come to us from a worship tradition that does not follow a liturgy and does not celebrate Holy Communion.

Imagine what it would be like if you were looking to see Jesus and had never been in a church before. If the Spirit led you here to St. Paul's, what would you see?... Would you feel lost in our mixture of worship bulletins, Video Screens, Prayer Books and Hymnals? Why at the same point in the service are some people standing, some sitting and some kneeling? Why do only some of the people make the sign of the cross, and only part of the people bow towards the front of the church? Think about it, for someone who has never been to worship before, the Passing of the Peace sounds like something leftover from Woodstock and since everyone gets up out of their seats, the service must be over. If it was your first time in a church, would you know what to do?

We don't make it all that easy, do we? For those of us who grew up in this, or another liturgical church, it is easy to forget how daunting it can be to figure out our Sunday morning traditions.

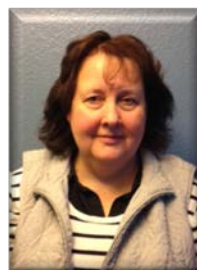
This is important for us to realize because it's difficult to be transformed within our liturgy if we feel confused and out of place. Wouldn't it be reassuring to a new person and help them see Jesus, if someone familiar with the service sat with them and guided them through worship? I think it would, for most people anyway.

The liturgy needs a little time to soak in. In order for this to happen for our guests and newcomers, I ask that each of us do our part to take away the stumbling blocks that can prevent connection. Help people connect to our worship by helping them navigate through it. You don't have to ask them to come to church because they are already here. Just be friendly by introducing yourself to them and ask them if they would like to sit with you. If they say yes, be their guide... and not only through worship, but also afterward by finding them a cup of coffee and showing them around.

Let's help our guests and newcomers find what they are looking for...help them experience Christ Jesus.

Kirk

Senior Warden Report



March began with the Vestry Retreat. It was very insight full day we were lead in discussion by Randy Siever, a former pastor of SCF and trainer in Leadership and Evangelism. This was the beginning of a look at who we are as Vestry and St. Paul's. This will be an important process for us we take on Bishop Dan's Initiative; Invite, Welcome and Connect.

Thanks to the Bouzek's for another yummy St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Brew! Your generosity with your talents is amazing.

Hoping your Easter Season is filled with many Alleluias! Barbara Monroy

Monthly Receipt Summary



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

For the 2015 year, our pledges and expected plate income is expected to be \$212,756, and should average \$4,091 per week from those sources. Normally, we will report by the week, but this month we will show our monthly activity through Sunday, March 23, to bring us current.

31-Jan	\$9,168.00	28-Feb	\$14,512.00
23-Mar	\$11,451.00	Online	\$9,783.00
Monthly Total			\$44,914.00

For this 12 week period, our budget target was (12 x \$4091) \$49,092 so we are \$4,178 under our expectation for this period.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission 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)

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

April in the Food Pantry

"It's in the Can!"



We need to have canned meats, tuna, Spam, chili etc. Of course, all donations are truly appreciated.

Episcopal Women of Nevada

St. Paul's will be hosting a Spring Tea on April 25th at 2 pm for the Episcopal Women of Nevada. Money raised will be used for scholarships to help women to attend regional conferences and conventions. There will be great food, entertainment and door prizes. You will have a chance to vote for the prettiest table and best hat!

Tickets are \$15 and a limited number are available. You may purchase them online at EWN www.episcopalwomenofnevada.com.

Outreach Report



March has been a quiet month for outreach. Food Pantry received donations of \$222.95. Of that total, \$97.95 came from collection cans at various Rainbow Market locations. Other donations for the month were made to Prayers and Squares (\$20.00), Youth Ministries for EYC (\$25.00), and the Memorial Fund in memory of Vendla Burton (\$500.00).

Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil

Jesus asked his disciples to pray with him on the night of his arrest. In memory of this, we keep watch during the night of Maundy Thursday from the end of the service until dawn on Good Friday.

Please sign up for a block of time that you will spend in quiet reflection. It is good to have a companion during the time you select but not required.

Prayers of the People



Please help us keep our Prayer Chain List up to date. Let someone in the Prayer Chain Group or

Prayer Requests Robin in the office know each month if we are to continue to pray for your special people. Thank you.

Jack, Forrest, Diane, Russ, Pat, Barbara, Larry, Rev. Karen, Anne, Sofia, Mickey, Shirley, Philip, Nancy, Nanette, Preston, Pattie, Julie, Jameson Walker, Richard, Karen, Sven, Gracie, Ralphie, Sharon, Jaemie, Mike, Ed, Rev. Bill, Virginia, Vernice, Marilyn, Fiona, Robert, Kay, Brenda, Alex, Trudy, Lorrie, Dick, Harry, Sam, Nicole, Dave, Stephany, Amanda, Gil, Jim's family, Brett, George, Ashley, Peadear, Tara, Tasha, Jill, Victoria, Ella, Bobbie, Kerry, Lea, Michael, Dale, Al, Clare's family, Jerry, Lynne, Jerie's family, Margee, June, Daniel, Becky, Shelly, Sarah, Skip, Barbie, Robin, Joann, Sharon & family, Keith, Paul, C.J., Chad, Ralph, Mara, John, Lisa, Debbie, Sue, Ruth, Richard's family, Diana, Curt, Rebecca, Irene, Cliff, Ramon, Doug, Joe, Mary, Vickie, Patricia, Rhoda, Rich & Audrey Grace.

Military: Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Sierra, Owen, Brian, Lt. Col Bruce, Jordan, Evanne, Carl, Will, Alex & Suzanne.

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. We will meet April 4th and 16th from 10:00 to Noon.



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:

April 5: Happy Easter- Help with Easter Egg Hunt The Easter Egg Hunt for children will take place after the 9 AM service. Youth are needed to help hide eggs in the memorial garden during the first part of the service. If you can help, meet by the doors to the garden at 9 AM. We will not be meeting after church. Enjoy your day with your family!

April 12: Scavenger Hunt Meet in the youth room at 10:30 AM. We will then head out for a fun scavenger hunt that we are planning! (In other words we are not going on a never ending scavenger hunt in downtown Reno like we did a year and a half ago!). We will eat lunch at the church afterwards.

April 19: Growing with God Meet in the youth room at 10:30 AM. We will watch one of the videos from Re: Form and discuss. Lunch will be provided and games to follow.

April 26: Blessing Bag Delivery Meet at the church at 10:30 AM. We will carpool to downtown Reno to pass out more Blessing Bags. Lunch will be provided at the church after we finish.

We Are Thankful...

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service.

1 Timothy 1:12

Watch this space in the Epistle each month for stories of gratitude and belonging. This month we are very thankful Chelsea Herdt shared her answers with us.



How long have you attended St. Paul's?

I have attended St. Paul's for 11 years. The first 5 years I attended sparsely for I only visited my Nana, Brenda Stracner, a few times a year. I have attended regularly for going

on 6 years in August.

What about St. Paul's makes it a church home for you?

To be honest, St. Paul's isn't even my "church home". I consider our church my home away from home. There is an overwhelming sense of acceptance, family and love in that building. And to refer back to the family aspect of church, I feel like service every Sunday is a family reunion. We share our struggles, sing songs together, share about our life, share a meal together, and talk about our most loved family, The Father and The Son. I believe that's what makes our church my home.

How have you experienced God's generosity?

I believe God's generosity has definitely been with me in the past four months the most. He has been very generous in forgiving my questions of his existence, because through my mom's second divorce, a breakup with someone whom I had strong feelings for, and my dad's cancer, I have had a few questions for my Lord of what his plans were for me, and I believe he has been very generous in his forgiveness with me.

What is one thing about St. Paul's you are most thankful for?

Like I was saying, the family aspect of our church is amazing. Everyone in those pews, at those microphones, and on the altar is so accepting and supportive of me, my choices, and my family. It's truly amazing how many wonderful people can gather under one roof to be a close knit family and worship the Lord.

Please share a favorite story about your time at St. Paul's.

I think one of the most memorable things was my acolyte training. Mike was an amazing mentor. He was the one person who really enlightened me spiritually and taught me about responsibility. Learning how to put out a candle properly or how to grip a cross right to make sure it doesn't fall really did something to my spirit. I still remember the first big service I was a crucifer in. It was the Easter vigil of 2012 and I remember pacing the small chapel freaking out that I wasn't going to be good enough for the Bishop. I walked into the narthex, tears welling in my eyes and Mike stopped me. He looked me dead in the eyes and gave me a pep talk. He even got Bishop Dan involved. You didn't hear this from me, but the Bishop gets scared every time he has to do a big service like that too!

Thanks for sharing some of your faith experiences with us Chelsea!

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

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!

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

Bishop Dan's 14th EPISTLE TO THE NEVADANS



Inward and Outward

Back in the 80s, Linda and I were rediscovering Christian faith. When we visited DC for work, we set out to visit The Church of The Savior, which along with The Sojourner's Community (also in DC) and Koinonia Farms (in South Georgia), was at the cutting edge of socially engaged progressive Christianity in those days. We did not understand that The Church of The Savior was no longer a church but a partnership of 6 different faith communities then - 9 today - each serving God's mission in a distinct way but connected to and supported by The Church of the Savior Partnership.

So what we found at the CTS location was just an office, a mostly empty office. We were greeted by an unremarkable older lady who introduced herself as "Elizabeth O'Connor." We did not take much note of her but she invited us to a gathering at The Potter's House, one of the affiliated faith communities. We attended and enjoyed The Potter's House. A few weeks later I learned that Elizabeth O'Connor was a brilliant and prolific writer. She was in fact the author of a seminal book that became a classic of faith, Journey Inward, Journey Outward.

I won't quote her book, hoping you will read it for yourselves. Instead I'll give you my own take on her message using resources that have more recently become dear to me. O'Connor's book has a message for each of us as an individual and also for our congregations. How apt is that! The life of a congregation should shape and sustain each of our individual spiritual lives and each of our individual spiritual lives should serve as a tributary to the mission of God's people praying and serving together.

O'Connor's message to the individual Christian is two-fold: On the one hand, we cannot serve others effectively unless we first put our own souls in order. Arguably the greatest peacemaker of the 20th Century, U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold said:

*Our work for peace must begin within the private
World of each one of us. To build a world without fear,
We must be without fear. To build a world of justice,
We must be just. And who can we fight for liberty if
We are not free in our own minds?*

A follower of Jesus, Hammarskjold knew Matthew 7: 5:

*First take the plank out of your own eye.
Then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

This is why Hammarskjold built a room for quiet, meditation, and prayer in the United Nations Building. When this great activist for peace was killed on a mission of peace in the Congo, he was posthumously awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It was accepted by the Swedish diplomat Rolf Edberg. In his acceptance speech he said of Hammarskjold,

*He had a room of quiet within himself.
No one was ever able to reach into that room.*

Except for the random sociopath, we all would like to do some good in the world. Perhaps we simply and humbly aspire to be a positive presence in our family or with friends. Maybe we play on the larger field of social and economic justice. We cannot live a truly human life without some engagement with our fellow mortals. We hope that engagement will be a blessing to others. But if we do not tend our own souls, then our interactions with others will be warped by something. Augustine had one way of describing that something. Freud had another. Whatever we call it, if we have not attended to our own inner work, our efforts to be helpful to others will do more harm than good.

*First take the plank out of your own eye.
Then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

But there is another side to that coin. Hammarskjold also said:

*In our era the road to holiness necessarily lies
through the world of action.*

A privatized spirituality is not the path to holiness. It is the path to spiritual narcissism. The late Marcus Borg challenged this individualistic me-&-Jesus spirituality in one of his last writings. (Marcus Borg) But it isn't just conservative evangelicals who fall pray to spiritual narcissism. We have plenty of more-spiritual-than-thou contemplatives tripping on their own cloud.

The main reason individualistic spirituality doesn't work is that it isn't true. We live in a matrix of relationality. When we Christians set out to say Reality is knit together by relationality, we call it the Trinity. When we say we are called to live as part of each other, we call it the Body of Christ. But this truth comes across especially clearly in the African spirituality of Ubuntu, so beautifully expressed and

exemplified by a great peacemaker and liberator of our time, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

It comes together in this simple axiom: *I am only me because of you.*

The Holy Spirit in Scripture does three things - life giving; empowering, connecting - but they are really just three aspects of one thing. Life is a power that arises in our midst when we are in godly relationship. I believe it was Rabbi Heschel, who after returning from the march at Selma was asked if he had prayed while there, and he replied;

I prayed with my feet.

He would have been paraphrasing Frederick Douglass who said:

*I prayed for 20 years but received no answer
until I prayed with my legs.*

This is why Quaker writer and educator wrote The Active Life as a guide to the spirituality of engagement with the world we all inhabit together.

Authentic spiritual practice leads to and is inseparable from work for justice and mercy. Authentic work for justice and mercy leads to and is inseparable from intentional spiritual practice.

So the message to each of us in our personal lives is clear. Health requires a balance of spiritual practice (which in turn is a balance of prayers, study, worship, and other elements - that is for another Epistle) and action (which is also calls for a balance of elements such as charity and justice - yet another Epistle). For now suffice it to say that the journey inward and the journey outward are like two paths that have been intertwined into one.

I cannot do you a bit of good until I see the image of God in you. And I cannot see God unless I see God in you. (1 John 4: 20)

But if what is true for us as individual Christians is also true for the Church, then what does this say to the Church? I wonder - just wonder -- if in the era roughly 1995 to 2005 perhaps we spoke a bit much about contemplation and not so much about mission; and if roughly 2005 to today we have spoken more about mission and less of contemplation. I am not at all sure of the history of that. It is just a musing. But I will say with confidence that contemplation without mission is bogus; and mission without contemplation is bogus. This does not mean we all have to pray in any particular way or that we all have to serve the world in any particular way. There is plenty of room for variety on both sides of this equation - but it is an equation. We need both in tandem.

So is the business of the Church to tend to the flock or to send the flock out into the world to love and serve the Lord, seeking and serving Christ in all people, striving for justice and peace among all people (sound familiar?)? The answer is clearly and unambiguously: **Yes.**

Blessing Always, Bishop Dan

Coming Events



April 2015

Wednesday	Apr. 1, 2015	<i>Lenten Soup Supper (thru Lent 4/1)</i>	5:30 pm
Wednesday	Apr. 1, 2015	<i>Tenebrae Service</i>	6:15 pm
Thursday	Apr. 2, 2015	<i>Maundy Thursday w/foot washing</i>	6:00 pm
Thursday	Apr. 2, 2015	<i>NO Healing Service w/Holy Eucharist</i>	6:00 pm
Thursday	Apr. 2, 2015	<i>The All Night Vigil, starts @ 7:00 pm ends 6:00 am</i>	
Friday	Apr. 3, 2015	<i>Good Friday (Stations of the Cross)</i>	12:10 pm
Friday	Apr. 3, 2015	<i>Good Friday Liturgy</i>	6:00 pm
Saturday	Apr. 4, 2015	<i>Holy Saturday Liturgy</i>	9:00 am
Saturday	Apr. 4, 2015	Daughters of the King	10:00 am
Saturday	Apr. 4, 2015	<i>Easter Vigil & visit from Bishop Dan</i>	8:00 pm
Sunday	Apr. 5, 2015	<i>Easter Sunday (9:00 am & 11:00 am No 5:00 pm service)</i>	
Sunday	Apr. 5, 2015	<i>Easter Egg hunt between 9 & 11 services</i>	
Monday	Apr. 6, 2015	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Thursday	Apr. 9, 2015	Healing Service w/Holy Eucharist <i>(back to schedule)</i>	6:00 pm
Saturday	Apr. 11, 2015	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Monday	Apr. 13, 2015	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Friday	Apr. 17, 2015	<i>St. Paul's Girl's Weekend thru Sunday</i>	
Saturday	Apr. 18, 2015	Daughters of the King	10:00 am
Saturday	Apr. 25, 2015	Episcopal Women of Nevada (all day)	8:00 am
Saturday	Apr. 25, 2015	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm

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