

The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
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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

May 2015

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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...



I recently read an article on Patheos.com written by The Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor of Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas. The article was titled, 10 Signs of Life: Your

Church Might Just Make it. I know there is no magic list that will make a church be successful, however by asking ourselves questions we can begin to see things from a new perspective and with new perspectives comes growth.

Below in bold, are the first 5 things on Rev. Erin's list of 10 Signs of Life: Your Church Might Just Make it. (We'll take a look at 6-10 another time.) The comments that are not in **bold** are mine.

1. The church is showing signs of life if: There is room for doubt. Hard questions are welcomed and encouraged as a healthy part of faith and growth, and not a threat to the institution.

Over the years, I have heard several times the phrase, "I have too many doubts to go to church." I always tell them a healthy church is full of faithful doubters because those who are certain they have all the answers no longer have faith. As Episcopalians, we are expected to ask questions and wrestle for possible answers, and the best part is that our answers don't have to match.

2. The church is showing signs of life if: Unnecessary meetings are discouraged. And necessary ones are concise, productive, and clearly connected to the church's mission.

I don't think St. Paul's has too many unnecessary meetings, though we could work

on the ones we do have to make them more concise and productive. I'm skipping the part about meetings being connected to the church's mission. I'm not shying away from it...just postponing it to another day.

3. The church is showing signs of life if: There is room for everyone. Diversity is a church-family value. This may look different from one church to the next, but is an intentional conversation—not an accident.

This one is my favorite. It matches what is printed on the front of our worship bulletins which reads, "St. Paul's is a theologically diverse community seeking to embrace their diversity in order to live through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be a place of learning and belonging for all people." No one should ever have to try to fit in at church, because no one should ever feel like they don't fit in with God. If you feel like you belong, if you believe you belong, it is then that we can grow in Christ. If you judge others and feel they don't belong at St. Paul's, then you are blindly lifting yourself up and saying you are more worthy to have a relationship with Christ than they are. If you are uncomfortable with someone being a part of our community and worshiping at St. Paul's, then this uncomfortableness is on you, not them. Prayer for a new perspective would be a good place to start. Come and see me and I'll help.

4. The church is showing signs of life if: Members and leaders have minimal anxiety about finances. And giving patterns reflect a healthy balance; 90% of members giving 90% of the income, etc. (As opposed to the 'average,' 20% of members giving 80% of the income. Wherein one person dies and one family gets mad and leaves, and you are royally and biblically screwed...)

Even with our large deficit, I believe our vestry has a minimal amount of anxiety towards our

finances. With that said, St. Paul's is not in the healthy balanced group. We are in the average group. How do we move towards a healthy balance? It requires each of us to pray about our relationship with money/stuff and how it relates to our understanding of being a follower/disciple/student of Jesus. This is a tough one...there are no "easy" or perfect perspectives. It is just something that all Christians need to pray about it.

5. The church is showing signs of life if: Frequent and intentional turnover in leadership roles.

And a healthy balance of old and new members in leadership, as well. Our vestry reflects a healthy balance which is awesome, as does many of our ministries. There are however some areas that need some attention. If you have an interest in leadership, I'd love to visit with you to see where your gifts can best be used to help create growth within yourself and others.

That's it for now. We'll take a look at 6-10 another time. Until then, keep your eyes open for these and other signs of a healthy church...and if you see something that is unhealthy, lend a hand to mend it.

Have a blessed month.



WEAR RED DAY
Pentecost: Sunday May 24th

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
This special Pentecost celebration is held outside, weather permitting. This 10:00 am service is the only worship service held on this day.

There is **NOT** a 5:00 p.m. on this day.

Summer Schedule Begins May 31st
Sundays

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (style varies)
5:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist no music

Thursdays

6:00 p.m. Healing Service & Holy Communion

"In Memory of" Memorial Service

There are often times when we are unable to attend the funeral or memorial service of a friend or family member. There are also times when there is not a public service at all. When we are unable to attend such a service, we may struggle to find a sense of closure, or allow ourselves to begin the healing process.

On **Sunday, May 31st at 5:00 p.m.** we will have an "In Memory of" memorial service. During this service we will remember and celebrate those family and friends. We will have a special table for pictures if you would like to bring one for that service.

If you would like to have the memory of a loved one included during this service, please contact Fr. Kirk at Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org, [775-358-4474](tel:775-358-4474).

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

Monthly Receipt Summary



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks Funding the Mission May 2015

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.

29-Mar	\$3,459.00	5-Apr	\$8,385.00
12-Apr	\$3,292.00	19-Apr	\$1,982.00
26-Apr	\$3,201.00	Online	\$3,288.00
Monthly Total			\$23,607.00

For this 5 week period, our budget target was (5 x \$4,091) \$20,455 so we are \$3,152 over our expectation for this period, and \$1,026 under for the year.

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.

Outreach Report



There is quite a bit to report for Outreach this month which includes Easter. The Easter Offering totaled \$1804.00 and was split between St. Paul's General Fund and Kairos Prison Ministry with each receiving \$902.00. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) received \$252.00 from our Lenten Soup Suppers and the Episcopal

Church in Jerusalem received \$516.00 from Maundy Thursday/Good Friday collections. Food Pantry donations totaled \$1526.95 with \$322.84 coming from collections jars at Rainbow Market locations. Other donations for the month included \$50.00 to American Heart Research, \$700.00 to the Clergy Discretionary Account, \$35.00 to the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry, and \$15.10 to Youth Ministries. Memorials were received for Jerrie Taylor (\$75.00) and Vendla Burton (\$50.00). Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

Eco-palian Shorts

We hear a lot about saving water during the current drought. Try this easy idea in your bathroom to save water. Before you enter the shower run water into a bucket until the shower water is hot. You can use the water on your indoor plants, outdoor plants, or put it in a birdbath, etc.

May in the Food Pantry

"One pan does it all"



Things like Mac & Cheese or skillet dinners...

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, May 13th, 2015 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.

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!



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.

Hand Bell Concert: Save the Date!

The Wesley Bell Ringers from Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City, Utah will be performing in the sanctuary at St. Paul's on **Saturday, July 18 at 7:30 PM.** The 27 high school (and a few college) youth ring ten octaves of hand bells, hand chimes, cup bells, silver melody bells, a carillon and a boom-a-gong.

The choir will be embarking on a two week tour and St. Paul's is their first stop. As the host church, we will be providing them with dinner and housing. Tia and Jon Mittelstadt both played in the Wesley Bell Ringers as youth. Tia and Jon's two nephews and one niece play in the current choir.

The free performance will be awesome and not to be missed! Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. It would be great to have a full house for their first performance on their tour.

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

Jack, Forrest, Diane, Russ, Pat, Barbara, Larry, Rev. Karen, Anne, Sofia, Mickey's family, Shirley, Philip, Nancy, Nanette, Preston, Pattie, Jameson Walker, Richard, Karen, Sven, Gracie, Ralphie, Sharon, Jaemie, Ed, Rev. Bill, Virginia, Vernice, Marilyn, Fiona, Robert, Kay, Brenda, Alex, Trudy, Lorrie, Dick, Harry, Stephany, Amanda, Brett, Ashley, Victoria, Ella, Bobbie, Kerry, Dale, Jerry, Lynne, Jerie's family, Becky, Shelly, Sarah, Skip, Robin, Paul, C.J., Ruth, Diana, Curt, Rebecca, Irene, Cliff, Ramon, Doug, Michael, Joe, Mary, Vickie, Patricia, Rhoda, Audrey Grace's family, Steve, Heather & unborn baby, Sophia.

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

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. 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 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:

May 3: Service Project

Meet in the youth room at 10:30 AM. We will be doing a service project/craft project for people who live in assisted living facilities. Bring your creative skills. Lunch will be provided.

May 10: Mother's Day- No meeting today

EYC will not be meeting today. Spend some time with your mom, stepmom, grandmother or whomever is a like a mom to you!

May 17: Growing with God- Confirmation Begins

Meet in the youth room at 10:30 AM. We will watch one of the videos from Re: Form and discuss. The Re: Form videos and discussion will be used as our confirmation curriculum. These videos and discussions are for everyone even if you are not eligible or don't want to do confirmation. Those who have committed to confirmation- attendance is mandatory! Lunch will be provided.

May 24: Memorial Day- No meeting today

EYC will not be meeting today. Enjoy your long weekend with your family!

May 31: Outing to RockSport Indoor Climbing Facility

Meet in the youth room right after church. We will be carpooling to RockSport to go climbing! There is a waiver form that needs to be signed by your parents or guardians. Go to their

website, rocksport reno, and print it, sign it and bring with you. Be sure to read the information under "new climber" which gives advice on what to wear and how it is done. There will be no charge for this event. A member of the congregation has offered to pay for the youth to attend! Lunch provided afterwards at the church.

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

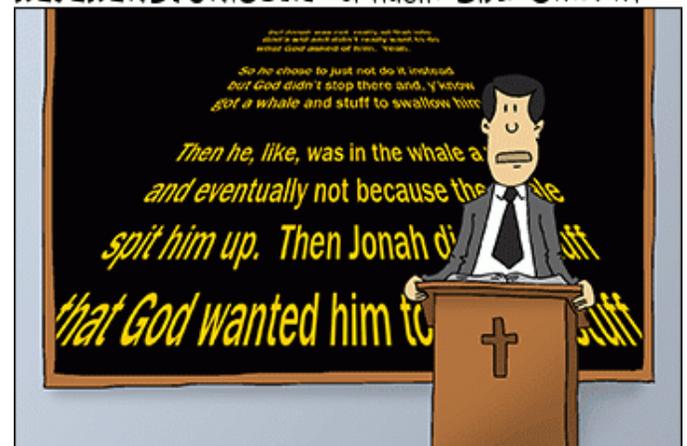
Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

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.

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KNOWING THAT HIS MESSAGE WAS ON THE WEAK SIDE, HE MAXIMIZED THE VISUALS FOR IMPACT

We Are Thankful...

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

Watch this space in the Epistle each month for St. Paul's stories of gratitude and belonging. This month we are very thankful that Gene and Sharon Carse shared their story with us.



How long have you attended St. Paul's?

After neglecting our church attendance for a couple of years we decided to give St. Paul's a try in 1998. Don't know if Rev Britt was having an exceptional preaching day or not, but we knew we would be members from that day on. In addition to finding the preaching exciting, we found the people at St. Paul's both welcoming and inviting.

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

Further involvement became almost immediate as it seemed there was an endless number of things to do and everyone wanted to help. It's like having an extended family all of whom really cares about the wellbeing and appearance of "God's house".

How have you experienced God's generosity in your life?

While living in the Bay Area we both found out our jobs were going away within a week of one another. This necessitated our making some life decisions about three years sooner than we had planned. We decided, if careful, we could simply go into retirement a little earlier that we thought. Looking back we now realize God simply had a different idea than we did and we are now grateful to Him for giving us the extra time to enjoy each other.

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

Since our joining St. Paul's, one or both of us has over the years served on Vestry, been Junior Warden, served as Administrators, sang on the Praise Team, been Chalice Bearers, Ushered, Worked in the Food Pantry, served on the Website, revitalized the Columbarium program and been on more teams than we should admit to, and taken collectively, that is what we are really thankful for. Each and every one has been a source of pride and fulfillment.

Please share a favorite story or tell about one of your favorite church activities.

Sharon's most favorite time was working for the Food Pantry. The feeling of accomplishment and the comradery of the fellow workers was almost overwhelming.

For me, it was probably the development of the Memorial Garden for St. Paul's Centennial celebration. Never knew what a Lych Gate was till then.

God be with you all, Sharon and Gene Carse

St. Paul's Prayers & Squares



The "Prayers and Squares" ministry is a special "outreach" tool to share the love of Christ. Prayers and Squares sewing group meets on the second Saturday of the month. We are now sewing from 9 am to 3 pm. Please feel free to join us anytime during the day. You do not have to be a proficient seamstress to participate. We need people who can iron, cut, hand sew and put in the strings that are used to tie into a knot.

p.s. There may be occasions when we don't sew all day due to other events planned for the parish hall. We will make every effort to keep the church calendar up to date.

St. Paul's Bowling Night

Bowling at the Grand Sierra Resort

Friday, May 1st 6:00 p.m.

\$5.00 a game & shoes are \$4.00

Sign-up in the Narthex (entry hall)

or email Robin@StPaulsSparks.org

Give her your name and how many will be bowling.

A Special Thank You

The family of Jerie Taylor would like to say a big THANK YOU to our St. Paul's family for their expressions of love and sympathy and support. Jeannine's aunt Jerie was a very important part of her childhood and her adult life. A special thank you to Father Kirk for his understanding, his patience, and his flexibility during this time. Thank you, too, to Father Mike Margerum, to Mike Entwistle and to Dick Stufflebeam for assisting Father Kirk in Jerie's "Celebration of Life" service. One more note of thanks.....to so many of Jerie's church family who attended her service at Five Star.

St. Paul's Garden Concert: May 17th

Come and enjoy our spring garden concert.

The Vegas Road Show will be here playing a variety of Classic Rock, Country, and Smooth Jazz with a touch of comedy.

Sunday, May 17th

Appetizers and drinks at 5:00 p.m.

The concert will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The price is \$15 for adults.

Kids 18 and under are **FREE**.

Contact the office for more information. 775-358-4474

Worship Leader Schedule

The "Master Worship Schedule" can be found on the St. Paul's website. Click on the "Ministry" tab. Scroll down and under Worship you will find the link to the "Master Worship Schedule". www.StPaulsSparks.org

Sponsor Altar Flowers, Etc.

Would you like to sponsor the weekly Altar Flowers, Ambry Light, and Communion Bread & Wine in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving of special people, or special events in your life? If so, sign-up sheets are on the wall next to the office door. Please use the special offering envelopes in order for us to record your dedication statements correctly. Cost is \$20 for flowers, \$10 for ambry lights & Communion bread and wine.

Acolytes Festival Canceled

The Diocesan Acolyte Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, has been canceled.

A big thank you to our acolytes who registered for the event. Maybe they will try to schedule it another time.

Sound Tech Needed...Please Help!

We NEED people to sit at the sound board during the morning services and adjust the volume of the microphones. No special skills required. Please contact Fr. Kirk ASAP. 775-358-4474

Coming Events



May 2015

Friday	May 1, 2015	<i>Bowling @ GSR</i>	6:00 pm
Saturday	May 2, 2015	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Monday	May 4, 2015	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Saturday	May 9, 2015	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Sunday	May 10, 2015	<i>Mother's Day</i>	
Monday	May 11, 2015	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	May 13, 2015	Hill Gang	6:00 pm
Thursday	May 14, 2015	<i>Clergy Conference thru Saturday</i>	
Saturday	May 16, 2015	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Sunday	May 17, 2015	Prayer Team Meeting	12:30 pm
Sunday	May 17, 2015	<i>Las Vegas Road Show Garden Concert</i>	
		<i>Hors-d'oeuvres at 5:00 p.m. Concert at 6:00 p.m.</i>	
Monday	May 18, 2015	Kirk gone thru the 28 th Happy 20 th Anniversary!	
Sunday	May 24, 2015	Day of Pentecost (<i>Wear Red!!!</i>)	10:00 am
Only one 10:00 a.m. service on Pentecost <i>No 5:00 p.m. service on Pentecost!</i>			
<i>Summer Worship Hours begin May 31st... 10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. services</i>			
Monday	May 25, 2015	Memorial Day (<i>office closed</i>)	
Monday	May 25, 2015	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Sunday	May 31, 2015	<i>Annual Dean's Visit (The Very Rev. Jeff Paul)</i>	10:00 am
Sunday	May 31, 2015	<i>"In Memory" Memorial Service</i>	5:00 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 Wednesdays 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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church



Walking Together in Faith

Service hours apply through May 17th, 2015

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

Summer Hours will go into effect May 31st

with one morning service @ 10:00 a.m. and a 5:00 p.m. service.