

The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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Associate Priest

The Rev. Sherryl Netzler,
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The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

July 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...



St. Paul's,

This is a post from my blog (www.frkirk.blogspot.com) written on Saturday, June 27th, 2015. It was written for the general public and not just for St. Paul's, therefore there are

things in it that you already know, such as that I am an Episcopal priest. It touches on a few of the events from this past week, including my understanding of marriage. So as the title says, Humor me.

Humor me

I wear my emotions on my sleeve. I cry a lot and am wholeheartedly okay with that. I don't shy away from it because I know the importance of allowing myself to cry. It's important to me because of who I am; what I do.

I am a priest in the Episcopal Church. For those of you who don't know what that is, don't fret...just know that it was the religion of most of the writers and signers of the Declaration of Independence; a group who understood a little something about being oppressed, and a group that understood the importance of freedom, liberty, and justice.

When I cry I know that I have tapped into something that is important, be it important to me, a portion of humanity, or to God. I have a master's degree in Divinity. I'm not saying this because I think I'm better than those who don't have this degree, but I tell you so you know that I am actually educated in Christianity. I am not an arm chair quarterback when it comes to matters pertaining to God. My education requires many levels of understanding, not just what can be understood to a single person living in a single place and time.

My tears most often show up for two reasons. Either I am witnessing people being treated in such a way that would make Jesus cry, or I am witnessing a moment when the grace of Christ has created healing in people's lives who have been formerly cast aside by those who claim to be followers of Jesus. These reasons are often mixed together, because I often find them on the opposing sides of the same situation.

The past week I have cried a lot; at my desk at work/church while studying scripture, in the car after hearing about someone's cancer, at my son's swim meet after reading the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality, and even now as I reflect on today's election of Michael Curry as the first African American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. My tears are cleansing, they keep me sane, clear minded, and for all intent and purposes they make me a better human being.

In my position as a priest I share my life with a diverse group of humans. I walk with the most conservative and the most liberal people. This walk connects me to their deepest joys and pains; it also connects me on a deeper level with my own. It is this connection that gives birth to my tears, many happy ones and many sad. The Episcopal Church is a Christian denomination that is both catholic and protestant. We are the middle way, a group who has never been expected to agree with one another, but a group who is expected to share in the sacred meal of Christ found in a common loaf of bread and a common cup of wine. We are to share in Communion, not despite our differences, but because of them. We consume the empathy of Jesus, not as a reward for being good, but rather as the nourishment that helps us see Christ more clearly in the world around us.

My empathy for those who are in my life is a mirror of the Christ that is in me. In the state of

empathy there is no judgement, but the creating of a holy space for the person or people I am with, be it face to face or in long-distance prayer. This holy space to sit with people has gotten very big this week. In my own family and in the congregation I serve, there are faithful people who believe homosexuality is a sin worthy of damnation and others who believe love is love.

There are also those who understand the term marriage and those who only see it as something religious. Marriage is a legal term; it always has been. Marriage from the beginning of recorded history has not been about love, but about a contract pertaining to property and the rights associated with that property. The United States was founded on freedom and equality, and yesterday the equal right to enter into a contract of property and the rights associated with it has been extended to all couples, no matter what reproductive organs they were born with.

I celebrate this...with tears of joy I celebrate this. Marriage is the civil term and Holy Matrimony is the religious term. As a priest I do weddings. During those weddings, I act as an agent of the state to solidify a legal contract between two people about property and the civil rights given to each of them through that contract. As a priest, an agent of the Church, I pronounce God's blessing on the relationship to be more than something civil and legal. I ask God to bless their relationship to be one based on love...the same kind of love Jesus offered and still gives us; sacrificial love. This love is not required by the government, but it is expected in Holy Matrimony.

My hope is that one day, I will no longer be an agent of the state and a signer of marriage certificates. My hope is that one day we will separate Church and State and require all couples, whether straight or LGBTQ couples,

to go to the state and enter into a legal contract with each other. After that is complete, if the couple seeks this union to be blessed by God to be a Holy Sacrament in their lives, then they should come to me and other ministers of God's word and do whatever is required by their religious tradition to prepare themselves to enter into the covenant of Holy Matrimony. Some ministers will require this to be a covenant between what they consider to be the "proper" genitalia... so be it. For me however, I will require there to be a relationship of love, a holy covenant of love, and all the real struggles that go with it.

Until then, I will continue to cry as I hold each of your happy and sad moments in a holy place, a place of holy disagreement and a place of Holy Communion.

If you have continued to read to this point, I thank you for humoring me.



From Fr. Kirk's Pile... Part 2

I feel the need to write a preface/prologue to the following article. I wrote this newsletter article prior to the Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality. I think it is important for me that you know this was not written in response to the court's ruling. This was written prior to my blog entry "Humor me" which I decided was important to include in this newsletter too, so I listed it at the top to be read first.

I also want to reiterate that my office door is always open to you. If you need help in your journey with Christ, I'm here for you. If you disagree with me on something and you want to talk about it, I am here for you. If you want to share with me new ideas for ministry and worship in order for St. Paul's to better live and share the Gospel, I'm here for you. With that said, here is my original newsletter article.

Put on Your Walking Shoes

I don't know if Jesus went around barefoot or if he wore sandals. Either way, it is clear that he knew what his feet were for. They were not made for kicking people while they were down and they were not made for standing around being idle. Jesus knew that his feet were made for walking.

Jesus healed with his hands, but it was on his feet that he walked to find those who needed him. As he walked across the land (and the water too) the stories of this special man spread faster than he could travel. As the word spread, others used their feet too, no longer able to sit in their despair. The people were drawn to this bringer of hope and as they walked into his holy presence, what they experienced was a new sense of community, a new sense of belonging.

As Jesus' community grew it challenged the status quo, it challenged the cultural leaders and religious hierarchy in such a way that made them afraid. How could this holy man who brought so much hope to some, stir fear in others? Hope lifts up those who feel they have nothing and as that hope grows it brings fear to those who feel that if others gain hope, they might lose something in return.

The Christians of today who live in fear are those who have forgotten what their feet are for; they have forgotten to walk. Sitting idle in our comfort zone is not a Jesus thing to do. We must get up in order to seek and serve Christ in all people. We must have the courage to go out and seek the one we call savior in order to strive for justice and peace and be the bringers of respect, dignity, and hope to those who live without it.

Jesus did not sit and wait for people to come to him, and like he sent out his disciples to bring healing and hope to people's lives, we too are

called to do the same. We are called to seek out Jesus in others and show them they belong, just as we do, in the Body of Christ.

Who needs to know they belong in Christ's family; that they belong here with us at St. Paul's? Where is Jesus sending you? Who is Jesus sending you to walk alongside? Are you called to walk beside those without food and shelter? The abused? Those in prison, or those newly released? Are you called to walk beside those whose skin is a different color, who come from a different culture or who speak a different language? Are you called to walk beside the LGBT community or more specifically the LBGT youth who have been kicked out on the street because their parents were disgusted by them, unable to see them as being created in the image of God? Are you called to walk beside those in other faith traditions, helping to reconcile the fear and hatred that is cast upon them?

Each of you are called beyond a life of idleness into a life where your feet are made for walking.

I too am being called. Over the past several years and I am being called more and more to represent hope and belonging to the LGBT community. Even more specifically I am being called to show belonging to the youth, the children, who are living in the trauma of being taught they are worthless, hated by God, and being kicked out of their families and forced to fend for themselves on the streets. No one should ever have to experience this shame and especially when it is being inflicted in the name of Jesus.

In listening to God, I will walk with the LGBT community. On Saturday, July 25th, I will be joining other Christian congregations and walk as a representative of St. Paul's in the Northern Nevada Pride Parade. Following the parade I will be manning a table for St. Paul's

under the "One Tent", sharing information about our community of hope and belonging.

I invite you all to walk with me and my family during the parade as an outward and visible sign of God's grace. I also invite you to join me at the St. Paul's table under the tent.

As a community, St. Paul's is being called to change unhealthy images of God and the Church. Individually, each of us is called to walk with someone in need of belonging.

If witnessing to the LGBTQ community is not the particular walk in which God is calling you, I respect that. Since there are so many individuals and groups who only know the Church to be a place of hate and non-acceptance, there are many other options out there.

Please pray about where God is calling you. If need be, I'll help you put on your walking shoes and find the right path.

If you plan on joining me, please let me know so we can make some plans. 775-358-4474 Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org

Have a blessed month.

CommUNITY Pride Parade

Come walk with Fr. Kirk's family and represent St. Paul's as a place of belonging for all people.

Saturday, July 25th, 10:00 a.m.,

The parade begins at Ralston St., travels east on 1st St. ending at Wingfield Park (0.10 miles)

Annual Pride Festival

After the Pride Parade there is the Pride Festival with a Beach Vibe. This is the event for the LGBT community and their Allies and Friends to celebrate and come together in UNITY!

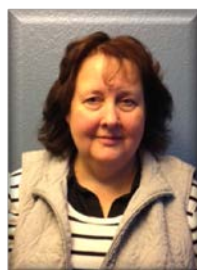
There will be lots of music and entertainment, tons of food, plus vendor and educational booths, games hosted by local businesses and non-profits, art installations and art projects everywhere!

Saturday, July 25th, 2015, 11:00am - 4:00pm

Wingfield Park Cost: \$5 donation

Event proceeds go directly to Build Our Center, a non-profit organization working to Build, Connect, and Strengthen community and its support for LGBTQ issues in Northern Nevada, with the goal of building a community center.

Senior Warden's Report May 2015



July is upon us; hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer. . The Bibby BBQ is July 12th and the great food not only gives us a special time for fellowship, but the funds from the event will go to maintenance around the building. Bob and Peggy's generosity and great cooking skills are truly appreciated. July 18th will bring the Wesley Bell Ringers to St. Paul's, the first stop on their Summer Tour, thanks Tia Mittelstadt for bringing them to us. I hope you will consider attending both events.

I am grateful for the St Paul's family and all the good work you do!

Barbara Monroy

July in the Food Pantry "Canned Peas and Carrots and Fruit, Oh My!"

Please donate canned vegetables and fruit...



Monthly Receipt Summary



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

31-May	\$2,990.00	7-Jun	\$3,136.00
14-Jun	\$2,142.00	21-Jun	\$1,872.00
		Online	\$4,765.00
Monthly Total			\$14,905.00

For this 4 week period, our budget target was (4 x \$4,091) \$16,364 so we are \$1,459 under the projection for this period, and \$2,463 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



St. Paul's just received it's first check totaling \$14.56 from purchases made by parishioners using the Amazon Smile Program. As a reminder, Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchase back to St. Paul's when

selected as your charitable organization. Signing up is easy. Just go to amazon.smile.com to learn more about the program and select St. Paul's to receive your donations. Remember, St. Paul's only benefits if you make your purchases through Amazon Smile.

The Food Pantry received donations in June of \$562.57. Of that total, \$402.57 came from donation jars placed at various Rainbow Market locations. Other donations for the month included \$40.00 to the Prayers and Squares quilt ministry, \$200.00 for Church School funding, and \$102.00 to St. Paul's youth group (EYC).

Music.Patti Stine, Outreach Committee

Pinterest Interest Group

August Pinterest - Monday August 3, 2015 6pm - this month we will take our event on the road to The Playful Potter 1351 E. Prater Way, Sparks, and paint bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser in September. The cost for the bowl is \$10 and your creative masterpiece will be donated to the event for auction. Dinner and Beverage will be provided. Please follow the link to reserve your spot. <http://doodle.com/g47bkwu892bbkzyd>. Or call Barbara Monroy 775-742-4856.

Eco-palian Shorts

Five tips to avoid Genetically Modified foods:

1. The GMO crops and ingredients to avoid are canola, corn, cottonseed oil, soybeans, and sugar beets.
2. Buy organic.
3. Look for products that are specifically labeled as non-GMO or GMO-free.
4. Shop local at farmers' markets or Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) so you know what you're getting.
5. Make it from scratch to avoid prepared and processed foods.

EFM Bible Study

Interested in an in-depth bible study class? EFM (Education for Ministry or as we prefer to call it Exploring Faith Matters) is a 4 year course sponsored by Sewanee- The University of the South. It is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Christian faith. Year One is a study of the Old Testament, Year Two is a study of the New Testament, Year Three covers the history of Christianity and Year Four focuses on Christian ethics. There are weekly small group meetings that combine students from all years. The cost is \$350 per year, you can check out their website for more info <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>. The course is mentored by Connie Patterson. There are Tuesday and Thursday night groups, we meet from 6:30-8:30pm. There is a BBQ on July 11th for existing members and interested individuals. Contact Connie if you are interested in attending (cp4675@att.net).

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

Forrest, Diane, Russ, Pat, Barbara, Larry, Rev. Karen, Anne, Shirley, Philip, Nancy, Nanette, Preston, Pattie, Jameson Walker, Karen, Sven, Gracie, Ralphie, Jaemie, Rev. Bill, Vernice, Marilyn, Fiona, Robert, Kay, Bill, Brenda, Trudy, Lorrie, Dick, Stephany, Amanda, Brett, Victoria, Ella, Dale, Shelly, Robin, C.J., Sharon & family, Diana, Curt, Cliff, Vickie, Ted, Patricia, Sharon, Marge, Steve, Sophia, Janell, Joann, Jeremy, Helen, Grace, Julie, Kathy, Peadear, Catherine, Tara, Daniel, Rachael, Baby William, Dave, Jim, John, Skip Patti, Barb, Mason & family, Bobbie, Paul, Sarah,

Teresa, baby Ashton, Eileen, Joel, Marian, Meredith, Wendy, Jeff, Ali, Danny, Chris Gretchen, Jo, Harry, Jane, Linda, Mikaela, Christine & unborn baby, Gloria, Renee, Mary & Kirk.

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

Just a Note To Say "THANKS":

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as "head-mistress" of St. Paul's Sunday School for the past four years. I have thoroughly loved planning the lessons, programs, and crafts for Pre-K through 5th grade for our St. Paul's kids. Thank you to the parents and grandparents for entrusting me with your children. Thank you to our teachers...Erin, Sheri, Heather, Ellen, Nancy, Leigh, Chelsea, and Jeri. Thanks, too, to Julia & Bob & Holly for their gift of music and to Eileen for teaching the kids the fun of working with pottery. AND...Special thanks to Father Kirk for his encouragement and support.

Jeannine Funk

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

Youth Group: EYC



EYC is an Episcopal Youth Community where all youth (and their friends) who have finished 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 will meet in the youth room from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM (notice time change due to summer schedule) unless listed differently in the schedule. Please join us for the following activities:

July 5: No Meeting- Happy Independence Day!

July 12: No Meeting- Enjoy your summer break

Saturday, July 18: Wesley Bell Ringers Concert

Come to the church at 7:30 PM to hear a fabulous youth hand bell choir from Salt Lake City, Utah. The 27 high school youth (and a few college age) will present their entertaining program. Bring your parents and friends! Our church is their first stop on their two week concert tour of the Northwest. Jon and Tia Mittelstadt were in this choir when they were in high school and traveled the country doing concerts like this!

July 19: Confirmation Meeting

Meet in the youth room at 11:30 AM. We will watch one of the videos from Re: Form and discuss. The Re: Form videos and discussion are being used as our confirmation curriculum. These videos and discussions are for everyone even if you are not eligible or don't plan to be confirmed. Those who have committed to confirmation- attendance is mandatory! Lunch will be provided.

July 26: Trip to Six Flags, Vallejo, CA

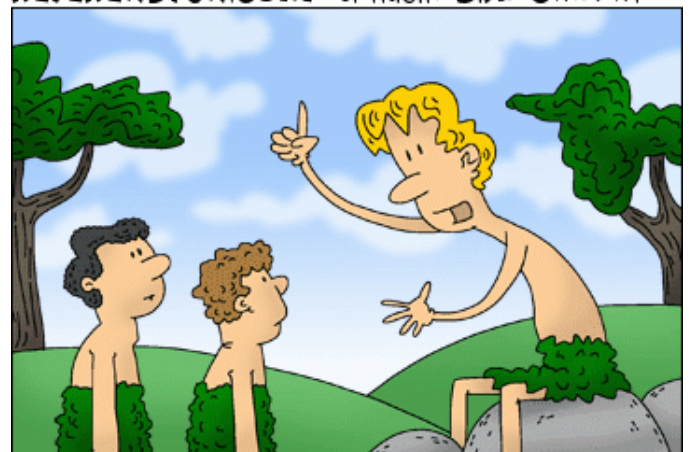
If you would like to attend, please let any of the adult leaders know ASAP. We will meet early on Sunday, travel to Six Flags, spend the day and then travel back that evening. More details about the trip will be given soon.

August 16: Confirmation Meeting

Meet in the youth room at 11:30 AM. We will watch one of the videos from Re: Form and discuss. The Re: Form videos and discussion are being used as our confirmation curriculum. These videos and discussions are for everyone even if you are not eligible or don't plan to be confirmed. Those who have committed to confirmation- attendance is mandatory! Lunch will be provided.

September 13: Weekly EYC Meetings will Begin. Mark your calendars. More details later.

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09-01-2014

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT YOUR GRANDPA IS GOD ... FOR BOTH SIDES OF THE FAMILY

Wesley Bell Ringers

The Wesley Bell Ringers, a handbell choir from Salt Lake City, Utah, will perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1135 12th Street, in Sparks, Nevada on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The concert will be the first concert on the choir's 50th annual concert tour, and will feature 27 teenaged ringers playing more than 225 hand bells and hand chimes.

In 1963, The Wesley Bell Ringers, a music ministry of Christ United Methodist Church in Salt Lake City, UT, began with 9 youth ringers and 25 bells. Fast forward 52 years; the 27 current ringers are the most recent of the 469 youth who have participated in the choir. Over the years, the choir developed a reputation for musical excellence that continues to open doors to exciting opportunities.

The previous 49 summer tours have taken the choir to all 50 states and most of the Canadian provinces. They have performed at the US Capitol, Cathedral of the Pines National Monument, Mt. Rushmore, Disneyland and Disneyworld. The choir has participated, as the featured choir, at numerous handbell festivals around the United States, and performed for The National Music Educators convention. Performances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir and The Utah Symphony Orchestra have been repeated honors over the choir's history.

The 2015 concert includes the music of Bach, Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera", and Disney's "The Little Mermaid". The choir will also play the music of many of the finest arrangers and composers in the world of handbells.

Admission to the concert is free, but a free will offering will be collected.

If you would like to learn more about the choir and hear their music, visit their webpage at www.wesleybells.org

Food Donations Needed for Wesley Bell Ringer Dinner

As host church for the Wesley Bell Ringer concert on July 18, we provide dinner to the youth ringers and their chaperones before the concert. All together we will probably be serving close to 40 people. I will be fixing and serving the dinner with the help of Linda Devon and Jody Rolfson, but I could use food donations for the dinner. We will be serving a baked potato bar and an ice cream sundae bar. If you can help out, please have your donations to the church by Thursday, July 16. **Please contact me ASAP via email at tia.mittel@gmail.com or call me at 775-722-3329 which item you would like to bring. Thank You!!**

Here is a list of the needed items: Confirm with Tia before you purchase an item.

- 3 - 16 oz containers of sour cream or 1 large from Costco
- 3 - 16 oz containers of mild salsa or 1 large from Costco
- 1 - large can of nacho cheese sauce
- 3 - 1 lb bags of shredded cheese
- 1 - large bag of washed and cut broccoli
- 1 - pound of bacon- cooked and broken into small pieces
- 1 - large veggie tray from Costco
- 2 - 24 oz containers of Hershey's chocolate syrup
- 2 - gallon containers of vanilla ice cream
- 1 - gallon container of chocolate ice cream
- 2 - containers of caramel ice cream topping
- 2 - containers of butterscotch ice cream topping
- 3 - cans of whip cream (squeeze kind- not cool whip)
- 1 - package of oreos

Homemade chili and a couple of pans of brownies would be appreciated also.

St. Paul's Men's Escape Weekend: Camp Galilee August 14-16

Beginning the evening of Friday, August 14 through lunch on Sunday the 16th, the men of St. Paul's are invited to a fun weekend at Camp Galilee on Lake Tahoe. This is not a "Spiritual Retreat", but a time for the guys to have fun and to get to know each other a little better. There are a variety of options in which to spend your time including: swimming, kayaking, hiking, playing cards, watching movies, or just chilling on the beach or in the shade reading a book.

The cost is \$120.00 per person which includes 5 excellent meals! To sign up or for more information, contact Dick Stufflebeam 313-3217. Make checks out to St. Paul's with Men's Escape in the subject line.

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.

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.

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



at Margaret.Bouzek@va.gov
or by phone at (775) 424-3767.

Lectio Divina Bible Study

Come and join us in the parish hall for this Holy Spirit guided study of scripture. (No homework required ☺) The combined Men's and Women's Group meets Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contact The Rev. Mike Margerum for more information. mgoodmarge@gmail.com or 775-229-2695.

Parish Potluck: July 26th

Don't forget the end of the month Parish Potluck July 26th after the 10:00 a.m. service. Bring your favorite entrée and/or dessert to share with others.

Parish Photo Directory

If you have not already done so, please get your picture taken in the back of the church following Sunday worship. We really need to update our directory. Thank you.

Newcomer's Dinner

Are you new (or fairly new) to St. Paul's? Would you like to attend a casual evening of food and fellowship at Fr. Kirk and Tricia's house? The date is not yet set, but if you would like to be on the invitation list, please call the office 775-358-4474, or email Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

(Official membership is **NOT** required to attend. Come and see...)

Bishop Dan's 16th Epistle to the Nevadans

Connecting Heart and Head



The bride of Christ has no business to be foolish.

St. Thomas Aquinas Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I write my Epistle to you from Ephesus this month. Paul wrote several of his epistles from here. So it seems a propitious place.

*I have been learning so much here this past week!!! I feel my faith renewed, informed, and energized. As I find myself feeling so en-couraged for life and mission, I want the same for you. Such learning is not a chore. It is an opportunity to live larger. It connects the head to the heart and the heart to the head. It knits us together and makes us whole. When Paul wrote to the Christians in this region, he said, I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ will give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation so **that you may know him** better, . . . that **you may know** the hope to which he has called you. Ephesians 1*

Paul believes there are things we need to know in order to live the Christian life. He spent his life teaching people and writing to them about the things they needed to know. As he taught them the truths of the gospel, he was following in the steps of Jesus whose disciples called him "Rabboni" meaning "teacher. Jesus was a teacher.

He taught them many things by parables . . . Mark 4: 3

Wherever Jesus was the people flocked after him in crowds and he taught them. Mark 10: 1

Jesus went up to the temple courts and began to teach. John 7: 14

(Jesus') disciples came to him and he began to teach them. Matthew 5:1

*To live the Christian life, there are things one needs to know. The Bible for example is worth knowing. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, for **instruction in righteousness**. 2 Timothy 3: 16*

A funny thing happened to religion during its several waves of American revival movements. We got the notion that religion is a feeling. I call it "the gospel according to Barry Manilow." But the father of American revivalism, Jonathan Edwards, explained in his Treatise on Religious Affections (Feelings) that feelings are good but they will not sustain faith. They are too unstable. Faith has a content we need to **know** if we are stand firm through life's trials and tribulations.

I have been so very pleased to see a number of our congregations stepping up their Christian formation programs recently. I was delighted that Trinity made the number one qualification for their new rector that the priest be "a teacher." I am inspired by the energy of the Pro/Claim program at Grace in the Desert. St. Thomas has an excellent on-going Bible Study. I had a great time recently doing a 2-hour survey of the Old Testament at Holy Spirit. St. Christopher's has launched a new book

group and St. Michael's has been working with a new curriculum for adults. These are just a few examples of new learning springing up in Nevada.

There are other resources and opportunities. I would love to see some of our congregations try out one of the series from Animate; or Embracing; or Thoughtful Christians.

I would love to see some of our congregational Bible Studies taking it a bit deeper with the help of the N. T. Wright For Everyone Series; or to see our congregations getting some basic introduction to the Episcopal Church through the Welcome To Series.

For those who are ready to undertake a real commitment to Christian discipleship supported by a group of fellow disciples, I hope The Restoration Project will be a life-changer not only for the individuals but for the congregation.



*Formerly Western Christian Educators' Conference

Presents "Where Your Treasure Is"
Holy Scriptures:
Six Blessings for Sustainable Mission Ministries
Keynote Speaker – Eric Law

October 12 – 15, 2015
Bishop's Ranch Retreat & Conf Center
Healdsburg, CA
www.pneumaconference.com



If some of our parish educators, either clergy or lay, attend the Pneuma Conference this year, they may find yet more exciting options:

It's time to gather your colleagues and register for the best annual Christian formation conference this side of the Continental Divide, this year - for the first time ever - at The Bishop's Ranch,

familiar to many in the Diocese of California, beginning Monday, October 12. This year's Pneuma (formerly Western Christian Educators) Conference features the teaching and worship gifts of Eric Law with music leadership by Chris Studer. In addition, take advantage of a variety of Christian formation workshops for experienced and new educators; hang out, hike, sing, and pray with people who share your passion.

When: Monday, October 12 to Thursday, October 15

Where: The Bishop's Ranch, 5297 Westside Road, Healdsburg

Cost: \$550 (\$450 for dorm-style housing and \$725 for single rooms, both limited so register soon)

Contact: Julia McCray-Goldsmith juliam@diocal.org, 415.869.7826

Information and registration is available here, and scholarship assistance is available from the Diocese of California Discipleship Ministries Working Group; contact Julia McCray-Goldsmith, juliam@diocal.org.

Here in Nevada, we have labored under the weight of not having a formation program for clergy since we lost the regional vicars some years ago. But I am excited that, thanks to the work of Canon Catherine Gregg and the Rev. JoAnn Leach, we will soon be adopting a program for clergy formation.

Once that is done I hope on tiptoe with joyful expectation that we can turn our attention as a diocese to offering faith enrichment programs for all our people on a regular basis. But the real faith formation work is done in parishes, week by week. Many of our congregations have renewed that ministry, and they have stirred the holy curiosity of their people. I celebrate that curiosity because it is not just for the sake of knowing for knowing's sake. It is knowing for the love of God and to equip us to do God's work in the world.

Blessing Always, Bishop Dan



7th ANNUAL BIBBY-Q
DEEP PIT STYLE BEEF, BOB'S BEANS,
SALADS, ROLLS, DRINKS
SUNDAY JULY 12TH AFTER CHURCH

Proceeds to repair, paint & improve fascia board around west wing of building.

Get you tickets from Bob Bibby or call the church office
Adults \$15.00 Children \$5.00

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CONCERTS DURING *ARTOWN* 2015

- Thursday, July 2 – 7:00pm – **MAXIMUM BRASS**
- Friday, July 3 – 12 noon – **MICHAEL LANGHAM**, Organist
- Thursday, July 9 – 7:00pm – **CARSON CHAMBER SINGERS**
- Friday, July 10 – 12 noon – **DAVID HATT**, Organist
- Thursday, July 16 – 7:00pm – **CRISTIANO RIZZOTO**, Brazilian Organ Virtuoso
- Friday, July 17 – 12 noon – **CRISTIANO RIZZOTO**, Organist
- Sunday, July 19 – 5:00pm – **TRINITY'S SAINT CECILIA CHOIR**, Choral Evensong
- Thursday, July 23 – 7:00pm – **SAN FRANCISCO GUITAR QUARTET**
(co-sponsored by *Classical Gala West*)
- Friday, July 24 – 12 noon – **JIM HELLER**, pianist, and **PHILIP MANWELL**, organist
(Haydn *Piano Concerto*)
- Thursday, July 30 – 7:00pm – **ANGELA KRAFT CROSS**, International Organ Virtuoso
- Friday, July 31 – 12 noon – **ANGELA KRAFT CROSS**, Organist

Dr. Philip Manwell, Organist and Director of Music

*All ARTOWN concerts at **Trinity** are free and open to all. Donations received at the door will go directly to the artists.*

Camp Galilee Benefit at Trinity Episcopal Church

200 Island Avenue (between Arlington and Sierra)

Special Musical Event: Friday, July 3, at 7:00 PM

Violin And Piano Concert To Benefit The Nevada Diocese's Camp Galilee

Arizona State University Faculty Members
Andrew Campbell, Pianist,
and Katie Mclin, Violinist

ADMISSION FOR ADULTS: \$10 NO ADMISSION CHARGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Coming Events



July 2015

Wednesday	July 1, 2015	Rector's Book Study	6:00 pm
Saturday	July 4, 2015	<i>Independence Day</i>	
Saturday	July 4, 2015	NO Food Pantry due to Independence Day	
Saturday	July 4, 2015	NO D.O.K. due to Independence Day	
Monday	July 6, 2015	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Wednesday	July 8, 2015	Rector's Book Study	6:00 pm
Saturday	July 11, 2015	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Sunday	July 12, 2015	<i>Bibby Q</i>	11:30 am
Monday	July 13, 2015	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	July 15, 2015	Rector's Book Study	6:00 pm
Saturday	July 18, 2015	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Saturday	July 18, 2015	Bell Choir Event	7:30 pm
Wednesday	July 22, 2015	Rector's Book Study	6:00 pm
Thursday	July 25, 2015	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Sunday	July 26, 2015	End of month <i>Potluck after morning service</i>	11:15 am
Wednesday	July 29, 2015	Rector's Book Study	6:00 pm
Friday	July 31, 2015	Ace's Ball Game (free hat night)	7:05 pm

Recurring Events

Summer Worship Hours in effect thru September 6th

EYC meets every Sunday @ 11:15 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 (*off for the summer*)

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. (*postponed for the summer*)

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
(1135 12th Street)
P. O. Box 737
Sparks NV 89432

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Phone: 775-358-4474

Fax: 775-313-0806

E-Mail: office@stpaulssparks.org

Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here

*St. Paul's
Episcopal Church*



Walking Together in Faith

- Sun., 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Style varies*
Sun., 10:05 a.m. Children's Sunday School
Sun., 5:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharistic, No Music
Thur., 6:00 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Communion