

# The Epistle



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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[www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://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. Hal Woomer, Jr.  
Assistant Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

## August 2016

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### WHO ARE WE?

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.

### Summer Sunday Worship Times

(Times are staying the same. NO change this year)

9:00 a.m. Praise Family Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service  
with Organ and Choir

5:00 p.m. Traditional Service  
without music

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



It was at St. James' Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas that I was infused with the understanding of what it meant to be really a church community. Prior to that I had experienced the fullness of Christian community while on summer staff at church camp, but I had never experienced it inside the walls of a parish.

The article below is from the July 15th online edition of the Austin Statesman newspaper. It is written by The Rev. Madeline Shelton Hawley who serves as a priest at St. James' Episcopal Church in East Austin.

The Rev. Madeline Shelton Hawley writes, "It's a Sunday night at Casa Marianella, a shelter for recently arrived immigrants and asylum seekers in East Austin. As I carry my paper plate heaped with chicken mole and injera (an East African spongy flatbread), the sounds of a cumbia beat move the dancers out in the front yard. It's a beautiful sight. Refugees and immigrants from Eritrea to Honduras serve a meal and share a dance. As their guest, I feel at once the kinship generous hospitality fosters.

In Texas, the art of hospitality has been a staple of Southern lore and identity for as long as there have been porch swings and songs around the campfire. Yet the virtue of hospitality runs deeper than a Martha Stewart-styled tray of tea sandwiches and wider than a heaping bowl of meaty chili. The true soul of Texas hospitality includes plates of mole and flatbread at a quinceañera reception, or a mejool date with a sip of water at an Iftar dinner (the evening meal when Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset), or a bit of bread and wine shared at Holy Eucharist. For people of many different faiths, hospitality is about who we are at our core, not simply about the interplay of guest and host.

As a Christian, I am often struck by the experience of following a God who is both a gracious host and a

humble guest. In our holy scriptures, story after story describes Jesus being invited into people's homes as a guest, and then out in the wilderness feeding the hungry masses as host. He shows us what loving God and loving your neighbor looks like, and it looks an awful lot like cultivating time and space to share what you have with others.

At its core, hospitality is about opening one's self up to recognize and share in our common humanity. As Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote, "In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute." When we see in others a bit of ourselves, we step closer and closer to healing the divisiveness of our current age that would rob strangers, outsiders and "those people" of our common human dignity. We begin to see in them the image of God.

This posture of recognizing our connectedness opens us up to become generous toward the outsider and the stranger, rather than giving in to a toxic blend of fear and suspicion. Of course, opening yourself to encounter the other is both risky and beautiful. When we encounter the stranger, the other, we will be changed by the encounter. That's the risk. But how we are changed depends largely on the how we perceive difference.

Scott Bader-Saye, ethicist and Academic Dean at the Seminary of the Southwest wrote in "Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear," "Hospitality requires that a community be capable of receiving difference as gift." So often difference is seen as threatening, dangerous and foreign rather than enriching, harmonious or complementary. If we open ourselves to truly meet and encounter the other, we can deepen our appreciation of the other, we can grow in empathy, and we can increase our capacity for love. Practicing hospitality orients us toward the common good and strengthens our communities.

So how did you practice hospitality this Fourth of July? How did you open yourself up to receive difference as a gift around the barbecue pit, or at the fireworks display? Who did you invite to the neighborhood shindig, and how could an attitude of hospitality help heal our toxic national political discourse?

Consider cultivating hospitality in your own spiritual practice. Opportunities abound for interfaith encounters with hospitality. In Austin, the Interfaith Hospitality Network turns places of worship into warm and welcoming shelters for the homeless. Interfaith Action of Central Texas' Red Bench Conversations bring people around the table to have conversations to improve interfaith understanding and civil discourse. Refugee Services of Texas needs Welcome Teams to help provide hospitality to and support newly arrived refugees here in Austin. Casa Marianella could use your skills and talents to help the vulnerable, newly arrived immigrants and refugees become a part of the community.

Find the ways your faith community engages in hospitality and be willing to receive the hospitality of others. It's fine and good to talk about hospitality, but as a virtue it really comes alive in the doing. It's in the eating, in the dancing, in the talking that we become hospitable, generous and peace loving people."

The Rev. Madeline Shelton Hawley is so right about hospitality being at the core of who we are as Christians. This core value does not magically appear within us at our baptisms, we have to learn it from each other as we live into the Gospels. Within the walls of St. Paul's is a safe place to practice both giving and receiving the hospitality of Jesus. It is then that the walls come down and we become vessels of change in the world.

*Kirk*

### Do you like to play cards?

Are you interested in joining a card playing group at St. Paul's?

Days and times will be determined by the group.

The card games to be played will be determined by the group as well.

The first step is getting a list of names of who might be interested in playing cards.

Please contact Fr. Kirk to put your name on the list. [Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org) [775-358-4474](tel:775-358-4474)

## Monthly Receipt Summary



### Funding the Mission July 2016

For the 2016 year, our pledges and expected unpledged income is estimated to be \$214,346, and should average \$4,122 per week from those sources.

26-Jun	\$3,089.00	3-Jul	\$3,532.00
10-Jul	\$2,786.00	17-Jul	\$2,066.00
		Online	\$6,710.00
<b>July Totals</b>			<b>\$18,183.00</b>

For the period, our budget target was (4 x \$4,122) \$16,488 so we are \$1695 over the projection for this period, and \$9501 over for the year.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity, and is posted in the narthex. You can also direct questions personally to any Vestry member, Roger Towne, or Patti Stine. Or contact us by email at [Treasurer@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Treasurer@StPaulsSparks.org)

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

## Prayers and Squares



Prayers and Squares will begin meeting on the 4th Saturday of the month starting in September. We begin sewing at 9 am.

We need help with all aspects of our projects. If you can iron, thread a needle or have some sewing machine experience or want to learn, please join us.

Prayers and Squares Team

## St. Paul's Garden Dedication

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

The garden here at St. Paul's is a treasure. Many people have had a hand in it, though none more than Gene Carse. Upon Gene's death, many parishioners suggested to Fr. Kirk and the vestry that something special should happen in the garden to celebrate Gene's contributions to the space. The vestry decided to dedicate the garden in memory of Gene. Please join us on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. as we officially make this dedication and celebrate it with an end of the summer barbeque.

## Missed the Visioning Meeting?

July 31<sup>st</sup> there was an open meeting that gave an update on the status of St. Paul's 2016 budget and an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and goals for 2017 and beyond. If you missed that meeting, the Vestry still wants to hear your dreams for community outreach, Christian education, stewardship, etc. This input is the first step in developing our 2017 budget. Please email your ideas, or even your concerns, to Vestry member Jon Mittelstadt at [jon.mittel@gmail.com](mailto:jon.mittel@gmail.com) or mail them in to St. Paul's Episcopal, Attn: Jon Mittelstadt, PO Box 737, Sparks, NV 89432.

## Pinterest Interest Group

On August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. the Pinterest group is taking a road trip. We will meet at Playful Potter-1351 E Prater Way and paint a bowl for The Empty Bowls Event in September. The cost is \$10 - Dinner and Drink provided. Please let us know if you are coming so we can plan accordingly...call Barbara Monroy at 742-4856 or follow this link.

<http://doodle.com/poll/wggd6kwcmwbxe8aq>



## Ministry Training: August 2nd & 3rd

Is this ministry for you?

If you have ever taken care of a loved one, you know how important it is that caregivers get a break. Offering respite care for those caregivers can be a very rewarding ministry. There is a free training coming up from 9:00 to 1:00 on the 2nd and 3rd of August. This is sponsored by the Sanford Center of Aging at UNR.

Please contact Fr. Kirk ASAP if this high quality training is of interest to you.

[Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org) 775-358-4474

## The Daughters of the King



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

[cp4675@att.net](mailto:cp4675@att.net) or at (775) 359-4675.

## Outreach Report

Are you perhaps interested in more information regarding the Eddy House or what we can do for the refugees coming to our area? How curious are you about Prayer-Walking or the 360 Blueprint program? Want more information about volunteering at the Food Pantry? Or do you have an idea for Outreach in the Sparks community? Please join us for our next meeting on August 7th at 12:30 pm or feel free to contact Patricia Unruh, 775-856-9779, [Lavendarme11@icloud.com](mailto:Lavendarme11@icloud.com)

## August in the Food Pantry

**"It's time to Rise & Shine!"**

Breakfast foods, cold & hot cereals, breakfast bars etc.



## Blessing of the Backpacks

Students and teachers: Bring your backpacks and school bags to church on Sunday, **August 14<sup>th</sup>** for the annual blessing!

## Youth Group: EYC



EYC is an Episcopal Youth Community where all youth (and their friends) who are about to enter grades 7-12 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 have any questions, please contact Tricia Woodliff at [triciawoodliff@hotmail.com](mailto:triciawoodliff@hotmail.com) or Tia or Jon Mittelstadt at 775-722-3469 or by email at [tia.mittel@gmail.com](mailto:tia.mittel@gmail.com).

## Summer EYC Schedule

### **Sunday, August 21: Painting Bowls at Playful Potter**

Meet after church at 10:15 AM in the youth room. We will carpool to get lunch and then to Playful Potter at noon to paint bowls for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser which will be held on September 28. The bowls will be auctioned to attendees of the event. All proceeds benefit the food pantry at our church. Please bring \$10 for the bowl and \$7 for lunch (youth fund money is available if this is a hardship on the family budget-just let us know). Parents can pick up their youth at Playful Potter or the church. We will probably be finished around 1 or 1:15 pm.

### **September 11: Regular Meetings Begin**

EYC will meet at 10:15 AM in the youth room. More details will be published in the September newsletter.

## 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.

Forrest, Diane, Russ, Pat, Barbara, Larry, Anne, Philip, Nanette, Ernest, Preston, Jameson Walker, Jaemie, Rev. Bill,



### **Prayer Requests**

Robert, Bill, Trudy, Lori, Dick, Keith, Brett, Ella, Patricia, Sophia, Paul, Sixten, Mike, Scott, Graham, Ryan, Rev. Ken, Holly, Sarah, Marilyn, Kay, Carol, Karen, Jennifer, Alyson, Penny, Sue, Nick, Mary Lou, Craig, Tim, Pam, Victoria, April, Peggy, Ed, Bill's family, John's family, Linda's family, Milt, Chip & family, Mary, Maureen, Yesika, Gene, Michael, Bethany, Frank, Chris, Matthew, Danny, Beau, Jessica, Wade, Joy, Sandy, Edith, Susi, Mike & family, Karen, Brian, Nancy, Dan, Eileen, Robin, Eryn, Nolan, Taryn, Janice, Tammy, David, Stacey, Reed, Phillip and all community service personnel, Madison & family, Duane, Yvonne, Kim.

Military: Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Sierra, Owen, Brian, Jordan, Evanne, Carl, Alex, Suzanne, Mason.

## **By Your Gifts We Are Blessed**

The following contributions were received in July:

Food Pantry - \$220.00

Helping Hands - \$5.00

Clergy Discretionary - \$105.50 - for Hal Woomeer

Memorials received for Evie Arnold - \$665.00

Patti Stine, Assistant Treasurer

## Lectio Divina Bible Study

Come and join us in the parish hall for this Holy Spirit guided study of scripture. Make new friends and find new ideas and ways of looking at scripture. No homework required ☺

### Combined Men's and Women's Group

Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Contact The Rev. Mike Margerum for more information. [mgoodmarge@gmail.com](mailto:mgoodmarge@gmail.com) or 775-229-2695.

## St. Paul's Men's Escape Weekend: Camp Galilee August 19-21

Beginning with dinner on Friday, August 19th through lunch on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>, the men of St. Paul's are invited to a fun weekend at Camp Galilee at 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 around \$148.00 per person which includes 6 excellent meals! To sign up or for more information, contact Dick Stufflebeam 313-3217.

## 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](http://www.sarahlightfoot.blogspot.com)

## Paint a Bowl for Empty Bowls

Paint a bowl and help feed the hungry! It's easy. You don't have to be an artist! Just go to The Playful Potter 1351 E. Prater Way, Sparks, NV. Tell them you are there for Empty Bowls, pay your \$10.00, and they will set you up. When you are done, your bowl will stay at the store to be glazed. It will be delivered to the event on September 28th and will be silent auctioned off to the highest bidder. The Empty Bowls event is the major fundraiser for The Community Food Pantry at St. Paul's.

## We Are Thankful...

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.** (Philippians 4:4)

Watch this space in the Epistle each month for St. Paul's stories of gratitude and belonging. This month we are very thankful that Nanette Fleming shared her reflections with us.

## How long have you attended St. Paul's?

42 years.

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



The friendliness. The support my mother and brother Philip and I received when our father figure died. Also the support I receive when I'm not having a good day. St. Paul's is my church home and I wouldn't worship anywhere else.

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

The joy I have in fellowship with everyone at St. Paul's. I enjoy using my gifts and talents

such as singing, being a Lector, Daughters of the King and whatever else may come up.

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

I was the only member of my family attending St Paul's at the time when I met Bishop Frensdorff. He always had a way to make me laugh. I first met him at a picnic in Lovelock which was hosted in his honor. It was the Memorial Day weekend of '82. As it turned out, I was a classmate of his daughter at Wooster and he said, "You finally decided to show up." (LOL). Another time I sat next to him at Galilee in the dining hall and he noticed I didn't eat everything on my plate. The next day at Chapel, he said, "it's not right to not finish your food" and I thought "come on floor swallow me up now" and yet I knew he was teasing me. He

was one to test people and he was always in the contest for the worst puns. He was very talented and had a great vision for the Diocese. I loved him dearly.

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

The love and the openness and understanding of everyone. I'm very blessed to have such good friends at St. Paul's and all that comes with that because they understand me!

**Thanks for sharing with us Nanette!**

**Recovery Groups at St. Paul's**

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

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

Thursdays: Gam-anon @ 6:30 p.m.

**Coming Events: August 2016**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Aug. 1, 2016</b>	<b>Pinterest Interest Group</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug. 6, 2016</b>	<b>D.O.K.</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug. 7, 2016</b>	<b>Outreach Meeting</b>	<b>12:30 pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Aug. 8, 2016</b>	<b>Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug. 13, 2016</b>	<b>Prayers &amp; Squares</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Aug. 15, 2016</b>	<b>Stewardship Meeting</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Aug. 19, 2016</b>	<b>Men's Escape through 19-21<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug. 20, 2016</b>	<b>D.O.K.</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug. 21, 2016</b>	<b>EYC (Playful Potter Bowl Painting)</b>	<b>10:15 am</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Aug. 25, 2016</b>	<b>Epistle Deadline</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug. 28, 2016</b>	<b>Baptism @ 9:00 a.m. service</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug. 28, 2016</b>	<b>Garden Dedication/BBQ</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>

**Recurring Events**

**Worship times, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.**

EYC meets every Sunday @ 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room (only some Sundays in August)

**Rector's Sabbath is every Tuesday**

Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays or (Check with your Team Leader) (Postponed 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. (temporarily postponed)

Food Pantry is open Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. & Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

\*Second & Fourth Wednesday of the month the Pantry is open from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.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 12<sup>th</sup> Street)**  
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STAMP  
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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., 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Traditional*  
*Sun., 5:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharistic, No Music*  
*Thur., 6:00 p.m. Healing Service with Holy Communion*