

The Epistle



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. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assistant Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

December 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.

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



Advent is a time to stay awake as we prepare for the coming of Christ. We are not just talking about the baby Jesus. We are also talking about preparing ourselves to meet the grownup Jesus, the Jesus of the Gospels.

The place where we encounter Jesus the most is in the people around us, the people with whom we share our lives. In order to not miss encounters with Jesus, we have to stay alert and pay attention. We can't pay attention if we are always talking, or when we think we are listening, but what we are actually doing is thinking about our rebuttal/response in the conversation.

Here at St. Paul's we strive to be a place of belonging for all people. My fear is that if we stop listening to one another, we will no longer be able to experience Christ and the Good News in our lives. In order for us to continue to grow into this grace, every one of us has to have a voice, and we need to feel that our voice is being heard.

At a conference I recently attended, the Rev. Marcus Halley from St. Andrew's, Kansas City Missouri said, "The Church should be a place where everyone feels safe, but where no one feels comfortable." We can't feel safe unless we are able to share our authentic stories without the fear of no longer belonging. As we gather to share with each other *and* listen to each other, we strive to participate with the same openness that we have during Holy Communion at Christ's table.

At our Advent Formation Day on December 17th, we will create a safe place for voices to be heard, as we practice the uncomfortable holiness of sharing and listening.

Take a look at the Formation Day. *Kirk*

Advent Formation Day

Saturday, December 17th

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the nave.

(First read From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...)

This is more than a simple invitation to Advent Formation Day; I'm *asking* that you come. We need you here. We need to listen to the voices of the Greatest Generation, the Silent Generation, the Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z. No matter who you are, you are unique. We need to listen to you and we need you to listen to us.

There will be no discussion, only listening.

Formation Day Agenda and Instructions

Agenda for Advent Formation Day:

1. We will begin on Dec. 17th, at 9:00 a.m.
2. We will open with prayer.
3. We will listen to a few people share their answers.
4. We will then break up into small groups to share our answers and listen to others share theirs.
5. We will close in prayer.

Instructions:

1. Think about how you connect with the questions listed below.
2. Pray about the questions.
3. Write down (or type) your answers.
4. While embracing both the safety of your church and your discomfort, bring your answers to our Advent Formation Day.
5. Have the courage to share your answers in a small group and have the courage to openly listen to others in your group as they share theirs.

Questions to Answer: (Before you come)

1. What story from your life has been the most influential?
2. What do you love?
3. Why is "it" so hard?
(whatever "it" may be)
4. What have you lost?
5. What do you dream?

December in the Food Pantry

“Trimmings for Holiday Meals!”

This month the pantry is collecting: Stuffing, canned goods, fruits and veggies. Desserts work too.



Angel Tree Tags

Toy tags and Senior Gift tags are now available on the tree located in the Narthex. Please pick a tag with a specified gift and bring back to St. Paul's unwrapped by Dec. 11. If there are any questions, please call Barbara Papadakos at 329-2295 or Barbara.jee.papadakos@gmail.com.

The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 18th, 12:15 p.m. Please join us for the annual Hanging of the Greens as we decorate the church for Christmas. The more hands... the merrier the event.

“Blue” Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18th, 5:00 p.m.
Is Christmas time hard for you?
There are numerous reasons why so many people struggle during this time of year. If you are someone that experiences more pain than joy around the holidays, you are not alone. Come and worship the Christ Child with others in the struggle. Come to our Blue Christmas service and invite those you know who might want to join you.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

The refugee program is looking for dedicated drivers who could take refugees to ESL classes and other places. Contact Mike Margerum, driver coordinator, if you are interested in doing this outreach.

Christmas Offering and Flowers

Envelopes for both Christmas flowers and Christmas Offering will be available soon. This is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and to give thanks for God's blessings.



The Christmas Offering this year will be split between St. Paul's General Fund and Eddy House. Look for the information board in the narthex. The deadline for Flower dedications is noon on December 21st.

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Perhaps you have never heard of the United Thank Offering or thought it was a thing of the past. UTO is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. UTO provides a much needed ministry not only in our church but also in our world. UTO grants equaled \$1.5 million dollars in 2015. People are encouraged to recognize their blessings and make a thank offering into their "Blue Box" to support these efforts. One of the things I put a coin in my blue box is when I arrive safely at my destination. There are many things for which you might be thankful. Jori Trimbell and Margaret Bouzek, UTO co-chairs, will hand out UTO Boxes at the services on December 4th. You and your family are encouraged to start putting a coin into the box every day for the things for which you are thankful in your life. The boxes will be collected in late April.

St. Paul's Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares have been creating some Christmas items they will be selling on Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 in the parish hall between services. Come enjoy your coffee while browsing (and buying) them.



Monthly Receipt Summary



Funding the Mission October 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.

30-Oct	\$3,359.00	06-Nov	\$2,151.00
13-Nov	\$3,336.00	20-Nov	\$2,151.00
		Online	\$7,000.00
November Totals			\$17,997.00

For the period, our budget target was (4 x \$4,122) \$16,488 so we are \$1509 over the projection for this period, and \$11,178 over for the year.

Ingathering Sunday has come and gone, but it is never too late to make a pledge. If you are a regular contributor, but don't pledge, it is harder for us to budget for your intended gift. If you donate online, we still need an old fashioned pledge card for the coming year.

As we enter the Christmas season and the end of the year, please make a note on your envelopes and checks as to what purpose they are for, e.g. Christmas flowers, wreaths, greens, Christmas offering etc. If you are giving funds for your pledge, please indicate the year that it is for.

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

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

By Your Gifts We Are Blessed

Donations were received in November for the following:

The Community Food Pantry, \$180.00
Prayers and Squares, \$25.00
Daughters of the King, \$30.00
Bishop's Discretionary Fund, \$720.00
Memorial Fund in memory of Jane Steward, \$50.00 and Vendla Burton, \$50.00

Patti Stine, Assistant Treasurer

Refugee Party

A party for the refugee families is set for December 17th 6 pm to 9 pm. in St Paul's Parish Hall. Please come and meet the 9 Refugee families who have come to Reno/Sparks. See who they are, where they come from, and what being in the USA means to them.

Bring finger food from the country of your ancestors. Bring enough to share with about ten people. No pork or alcohol please. If you bring meat know that Syrians eat Halal meats. These can be purchased at Midtown Market in Reno.

If you can help with the food, or set up please check with Margaret Bouzek or Pat Entwistle. They are supervising the food lay out. Daniel Villanueva and his UNR honor Students are setting up and clearing up. Any questions contact Deacon Mike Margerum at 775-229-2695 OR goodmarge@gmail.com.

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 Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Youth Group: EYC



EYC is an Episcopal Youth Community where all youth (and their friends) who are in 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 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 10:15 AM until 12:15 PM unless listed differently in the schedule. Please join us for the following activities:

December 4: Growing with God

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will eat lunch then watch and discuss a video by Presiding Bishop Curry. There will be a game show quiz to follow.

Saturday, December 10: Help with the Community Food Pantry Booth at 39 North Pole Celebration

More information to be given soon! Watch for more details on time and instructions.

Sunday, December 11: No Meeting due to 39 North Pole Celebration on Saturday

December 18: Christmas Photo Scavenger Hunt at Meadowood Mall

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will carpool to Meadowood Mall for a fun "All New" Christmas scavenger hunt. We will return by

12:30 or 12:45. Bring money if you would like to get a snack at the mall.

December 25: No Meeting- Merry Christmas!

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, Nanette, Philip, Ernest, Preston, Jameson Walker, **Prayer Requests** Jaemie, Rev. Bill, Bill, Trudy, Lori, Dick, Keith, Brett, Ella, Patricia, Paul, Sixten, Mike, Graham, Ryan, Rev. Ken, Donna, Carol, Alyson, Penny, Tina & family, Pam, Victoria, Peggy, Ed, Connie, Milt, Mary, Maureen, Frank, Chris, Matthew, Danny, Beau, Robert, Nancy, Brian, Dan, Sandy, Tammy, David, All Police & Community Service Personnel, Duane, Leia, Jill, Dorothy, Sharon, Trina, Linda & family, Harry, Arden, Stan, Frank & family, Stephanie, Joe, Jack, Shirley, Ellie, Bob, Kathy, A.J., Lani's family, Theo & family, Susan, Jacquie, Char, James, Charlie, Karin, Sue, Ruthie, Eileen, Mark, Bella, Vedda, Steve, Michelle, Ava, Richard's family, Debbie, Naoma, Brent, Tonya, Mia, Randy, Merry, Everett, Elva, Amy, Jeannie, Doris.

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

2017 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, January 29th during a combined 10:00 a.m. service.

In Memory of Janet (Jan) Enzler

Our dear friend, Jan Enzler, passed away on November 17. Jan was always an active and devoted member here at St. Paul's. She was active when our church was located on Pyramid Way in the 1950's and was instrumental in the planning, the construction, and the moving of St. Paul's to our present address here on 12th Street. When St. Paul's remodeled and expanded to its present size, Jan was busy in the planning, the design, the type of pews, the carpet color, and even the lighting.

Jan was a member of the vestry (actually the first vestry in the new building and her photo is on the wall in the narthex), sang in the church choir for many, many years, was active in fundraisers, fashion shows, teas, ECW (Episcopal Church Women), monthly Epistle mailings, and potlucks and parish dinners for St. Paul's. She designed all of the stained glass medallions in our church windows, and worked on the large banners hanging on the back walls of the church.



For many years Jan was in charge of writing the "Angel Whispers" ... always on the back page of our St. Paul's Epistle.... back in the days before computers when we all received our monthly newsletter in the mail, not on-line. Jan kept us up-to-date about newborn

babies, happy graduations, and engagements. If a church member needed food or a ride to the doctor, Jan's "angel whispers" would let us know. Yep, it was true....we most probably read the "angel whispers" on the back page before we read any other part of the Epistle.

Jan was the first to send out cards and handwritten notes of congratulation, get-well, sympathy, or birthday greetings. She decorated beautiful cakes for many St. Paul's occasions. She served on the search committee and traveled for interviews for a new priest after Father Towner retired. Jan delivered altar flowers and visited with parish "shut-ins" and was the godmother to many St. Paul's children over the years.

Jan was born in Massachusetts and always had a very special place in her heart for Marblehead, MA, where she will be interred in the family plot there. Jan loved the Girl Scouts of America and spent many a happy summer at Girl Scout camps -- hiking, swimming, and boating. Later, Jan became a Girl Scout leader and traveled to Washington, DC with her Mariner Scouts. In 1942, Jan graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design located in Boston and had a successful career early in life in fashion design. Jan moved to Reno in 1953 and has been actively involved in St. Mary's Hospice, Chapter J P.E.O., and area grief recovery groups.

A Memorial Service for Jan will be held here at St. Paul's on Friday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. Come celebrate a beautiful life well-lived -- we will miss you, Jan.

Narthex Christmas Mail Box

Writing cards to other parishioners? Let us hand deliver them and write us a check for the postage you would have spent.

See Page 8 below.

The Daughters of the King



Ladies - Ever wonder just what Daughters of the King actually do? Are you interested in spending a little bit of time in study and prayer a couple of times a month? Are you interested in laughing and sharing in a safe environment? Are you looking for a way to be more involved with St. Paul's ministries, but haven't quite figured out what that way is? Please come and learn about this ministry tradition for yourself. We can't wait to share with you.

Contact Connie Patterson or Margaret Bouzek for information.

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! Here's how it works: someone brings dinner, someone else brings dessert and someone brings the craft.



Call Barbara Monroy at 742-4856 or follow this link to let us know if you are coming.
<http://doodle.com/poll/3r79f8b3ukmafpu>

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 😊

The combined Men's and Women's Group meets Thursdays from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

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

Year End Tax Information

As the year comes to an end, some of you are doing some last minute tax planning along with Advent and all the other activities of the season.

St. Paul's accounting staff wants to remind you of the restrictions on us. In order for us to include gifts on your 2016 giving statement, all checks must be dated in 2016, and received in our office by Monday, January 2nd, 2017.

We hope the reminder is useful to you. From the Treasurer's Office

New Vestry Members Needed

Do you love St. Paul's and actively participate in worship and ministry? Do you have a desire for the mission of St. Paul's to expand and grow in the years to come? Are you able to make decisions for the future of St. Paul's?

If you answered yes to these questions, please contact Fr. Kirk to discuss what it means to be on the Vestry of the parish. 358-4474
Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org

New Vestry members will be elected during on Annual Parish meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017.

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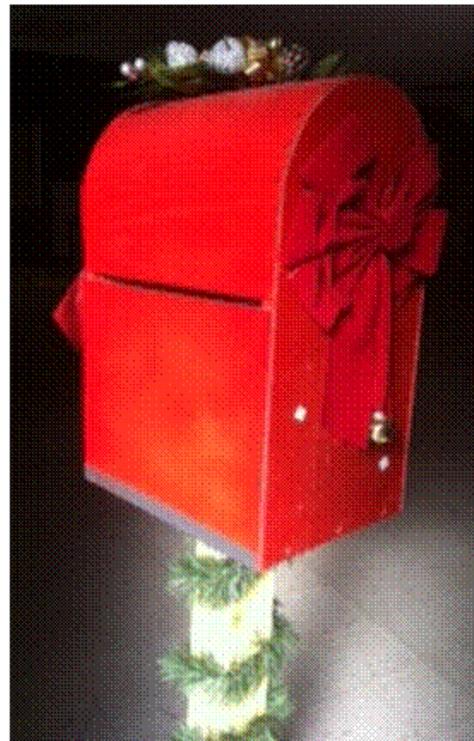
WHAT DO YOU BUY THE GUY WHO HAS EVERYTHING, MADE EVERYTHING, AND HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING?

It's Christmas Card Time Again

Are you planning on sending Christmas cards to other members of St. Paul's? If so, instead of mailing them let the St. Paul's "elves" hand deliver them for you.

Here's how:

You will find a decorated Christmas Mail Box in the Narthex. Write the name of the people/person you would like your card to reach. (no physical address necessary). Don't put a stamp on the envelope. Instead, count the number of cards you are putting in the box and include an envelope that contains cash/check made out to St. Paul's for that amount it would have cost to actually mail them.



The St. Paul's "elves" will hand deliver your cards and the church will benefit from your donation. Every little bit counts with a deficit budget.

**We NEED Volunteers to sort the cards and pass them out.
It's a great way to learn people's names.**

Coming Events



December 2016

Saturday	Dec. 3, 2016	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 4, 2016	Outreach Meeting	12:30 pm
Monday	Dec. 5, 2016	Pinterest Interest Group	6:00 pm
Friday	Dec. 9, 2016	Funeral: <i>Janet (Jan) Enzler</i>	2:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 12, 2016	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 17, 2016	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 17, 2016	Advent Formation Day	9:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 17, 2016	Refugee Dinner	6:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 18, 2016	Greening of the Church	12:15 pm
Sunday	Dec. 18, 2016	Blue Christmas Service	5:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 19, 2016	Stewardship Meeting	5:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 24, 2016	No Food Pantry	
Saturday	Dec. 24, 2016	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 24, 2016	Christmas Eve	5:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 24, 2016	Christmas Eve	10:30 pm
Sunday	Dec. 25, 2016	Christmas Day	10:00 am
		NO 5:00 p.m. Service on Christmas Day.	
Sunday	Dec. 25, 2016	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 28, 2016	No Food Pantry	
Saturday	Dec. 31, 2016	No Food Pantry	
Sunday	Jan. 01, 2016	Christmas Lessons & Carols	10:00 am
		NO 5:00 p.m. Service on New Year's Day.	

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

Rector's Sabbath is every Tuesday

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

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

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

Lectio Divina – Bible Study meets Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Healing Service with Holy Eucharist Thursday Evening at 6:00 p.m.

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

*Fourth Wednesday of the month in the morning the SNAP program & Food Bank Truck are here.

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., 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