

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 Eyre,
Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assistant Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

August 2017

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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...



I want to share with you a message from The Rev. Scott Gunn, who is the Executive Director Forward Movement aka, Forward Day by Day.

The message is a reminder for us to live into who we say we are at St. Paul's, and who God calls us to be.

Dear friends in Christ,

A couple of days ago I saw a Facebook friend post about her experience visiting a church. Lots of us do that during the summer as we travel. Anyway, her experience was not good. No one spoke with her. No one welcomed her. No one invited her to coffee hour. No one said they'd love to see her again next week. Now, she was just passing through, but her experience does raise an important question. Are we surprised our churches aren't growing?

My guess is that if I called the church office my friend visited and spoke with the staff or some members, they would assure me that their church is very friendly and welcoming. And they wouldn't be wrong. I'm sure the regular members there have a wonderful greeting each Sunday. But clearly, this church misses the mark with guests.

We need to do better. For one thing, welcoming guests is the basic stuff of healthy church development. There are lots of resources out there, from Forward Movement and others, to help with this. But that's not the best reason to welcome guests. In Matthew 25, we read Jesus' teaching about welcoming strangers. Now, I'm quite sure Jesus wasn't thinking of welcoming people to houses of worship when he said

that welcoming strangers is a core value for those who want to live righteous lives. But I am also quite sure that welcoming strangers is always important, in any setting. Jesus ranks it right up there with feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Yes, it's that important.

This summer, as you travel, make note of your experience when you visit churches. Are you learning things that you can bring home? And how is your congregation welcoming strangers? Can you improve? Welcoming strangers and offering hospitality is great fun -- and the wonderful side effect is that our churches will begin to grow.

Yours faithfully,

Scott Gunn

Executive Director Forward Movement

I think the gift Scott is giving us is a slight, non-painful, kick in the pants. If you see someone on Sunday that you don't know, at the very least, smile and say "Hello". If you are up to it say, "I don't think we've met. My name is _____." Invite them back next week, and then remember their name and use it next time they show up.

If you are really feeling welcoming, invite them to sit with you during the service. Tell them that if they have questions, you might be able to answer them. Then take them to coffee hour, have them sign the guestbook and give them a welcome packet.

After they have gone, tell Fr. Kirk about them or send him an email.

It's easy to greet those we know...let's do the harder stuff.

Kirk⁺

Blessing of the Backpacks

Students and teachers: Bring your backpacks and school bags to church on Sunday, **August 6th** for the annual blessing!

St. Paul's End of Summer BBQ

End of Summer BBQ is set for Sunday, August 27, at 6pm.

Come together for an evening of fellowship and fun. If you would like to help with this event; contact Barbara Monroy at bmonroy0216@gmail.com, 775-742-4856.

August in the Food Pantry

"It's a Wake-up Call!"

Cereals and breakfast foods, such as jams and jellies.



Empty Bowls Event

The Community Food Pantry will hold its annual fundraiser on Wednesday, September 27, at the Eldorado, 6 pm. Empty Bowls is our annual fundraiser, and this event funds our operation for a year. This simple soup supper is served by local Celebrity's and bowls painted by the community at large are auctioned. Raffle & Silent Auction Tickets are \$30. Contact Barbara Monroy at bmonroy0216@gmail.com or Linda Devon lsd4764@hotmail.com for Tickets.

Wine Donations for Empty Bowls

The Empty Bowls committee is adding a "Wine Pull" to the Empty Bowls event. We are in search of bottles of wine. If you have a bottle of wine you would be willing to donate, either one of your favorites or one in your pantry that you probably won't use, please bring the bottle to the church by Sunday, September 3rd with a note attached telling us your name and the approximate price of the wine (if you know it). If

you would like a receipt for taxes, please note that also. At the event, the wine will be wrapped. Attendees will donate and then pick a mystery bottle of wine. The Empty Bowls event which benefits The Community Food Pantry will be held on Wednesday, September 27 at the El Dorado. Tickets are \$30 for a fun evening of food, fun, raffle and silent auction. Come join the fun! Thank you.

St. Paul's Men's Escape Weekend: Camp Galilee August 11-13

Beginning with dinner on Friday, August 11th through lunch on Sunday the 13th, 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, chilling on the beach, or hanging in the shade reading a book.

The cost is \$152.00 per person which includes six excellent meals! To sign up or for more information, contact Dick Stufflebeam at 313-3217.

Neighborhood Clean Up Day

St. Paul's is sponsoring a Neighborhood Clean Up Day! On Saturday, August 19, from 8 am to noon, we'll pick up trash from around the church neighborhood including around the Library, Community Center, High School, and perimeter of the apartment buildings. We are hoping to have large dumpsters available in the church parking lot as well. If the dumpsters are approved, this will be a community event but for now we are looking for volunteers to form small groups and pick up trash. (Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes.) Please sign up in the

narthex to be a good neighbor in our community and help clean up our environment.

Earth Stewardship

Have you been enjoying the produce from the Farmers' Markets? Have you been enjoying trips, long or short, to various outdoor sights? If you are interested in these things or other Earth Stewardship kinds of activities come join us. Contact Jon Mittelstadt or Mike Margerum for information.

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares is a ministry that is dedicated to making and gifting lap quilts to persons who are ill or in need of special prayer. There is no charge for the quilts.



Those who participate in the ministry gather on the fourth Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall from 9-noon to work on the quilts. We have a lot of fun working on the quilts.

Interested people are invited to join us to learn how they can share in making the quilts (and have a fun time too!). You don't need to be proficient with a sewing machine as there are lots of other tasks involved.

Margaret Bouzek

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 Mittelstadt at 775-722-3329 or by email at tia.mittel@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 6: EZ Air and Pizza- New 7th Graders are invited to attend!

Meet after church in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We'll head to EZ Air to jump and climb and laser tag for an hour from 11 AM to Noon. Make sure your parent or guardian has signed the online waiver beforehand. Then we'll go to Lamppost Pizza to enjoy some yummy pizza. We will have kids call parents when we are leaving Lamppost.

Sunday, August 20: Painting Bowls at Playful Potter

Meet after church in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will carpool to get lunch and then to Playful Potter at noon to paint bowls for the "Empty Bowls" fundraiser. 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.

The Empty Bowls event is on Wednesday, September 27 and the bowls you paint will be auctioned to attendees. All proceeds from the Empty Bowls event benefits The Community Food Pantry at our church.

Sunday, September 10: Regular EYC 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.

Diane, Pat, Barbara, Larry, Anne, Nanette, Philip, Ernest, Preston, Jameson Walker, Bill, Trudy, Lori, Dick, Keith, Ella, Patricia, Paul, Sixten, Serwind, Ryan, Rev. Ken, Alyson, Victoria, Peggy, Mary, Frank, Karen, Sven, Grace, Robert, Jill, Sharon, Harry, Stan, Stefani's friends & family, Joe, Ruthie, Vedda, Elva, Doris, Eileen, Marge, Dillon, Madeline, Bob, Carol's family, Brock, Anita, Vickie, Robbie, Katie, Vicky, Alex, Matthew, John, Mike, Dwight, Mae & family, Carolyn's family & friends, Al, Sue, Gayle, Dave, Jeanette, Nancie, Dana, Lerae, Emily, David, Mark, Kathy, Keith & family, Ray, Julia, James, Bert, Susan, Trevor, Daniel, Sean, Tara, Donna, Damon, Eb, Linda, Steve, Judy, Kelly's family, Paula.

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

Funding the Mission: July 2017

For the second quarter of 2017, our operating receipts totaled \$66,063 and our operating expenses totaled \$65,958. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$105. However, the budget predicted a deficit of \$5,813 for the quarter, so in total we came in \$5,708 better than anticipated! Our total expenses were close to what we budgeted, but our receipts were higher by about \$5,500. Almost half of this can be attributed to the financial health of the food pantry. They paid us \$2,500 in the 2nd quarter representing 6 months of rent on the space they use in the back of the church and they plan to continue

with similar rent payments. We thank them for that. The other half of the good news is attributable to strong offerings every month.

Looking at the entire first six months of 2017, our receipts have exceeded our expenses by \$6,134 and we have beaten our budget thus far by \$16,976.

I expect in the upcoming third quarter we may somewhat eat into this \$6,134 surplus. We are planning to launch a significant repair project along the eaves of the outside west wall of the building. It is also typical that offerings drop over the summer.

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

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

By Your Gifts We Are Blessed

St. Paul's received the following special (non-operating) donations in July:

\$145.00 - The Community Food Pantry

\$100.00 - Galilee Episcopal Camp
(in memory of Jan Enzler)

\$290.00 - Clergy Discretionary

\$500.00 - Memorial Fund in memory of
Dorothy O'Boyle

\$100.00 - School Supplies

\$ 6.00 - Miscellaneous Outreach (Pride
Parade)

\$ 21.00 - Daughter's of the King (DOK)

Patti Stine, Assistant Treasurer

Listen to Our Sermons Online

at <http://stpaulsspark.org/sermon-podcast/>

They are normally posted on Tuesday of each week.

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.

School Supply Drive

It's time to donate school supplies and help our neighborhood elementary schools!

If you don't want to shop, put cash donations in an envelope and mark it "School Supplies" or put "School Supplies" on the subject line of your check on drop it in the offering plate.

If you have any questions contact Connie Patterson at cp4675@att.net.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Interested in an in-depth bible study class? EfM (Education for Ministry) 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 \$360 per year, you can check out their website for more info <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>. The commitment is only 1 year at a time. We meet for 36 weeks of the year, with time off at the holidays and for Holy Week. Connie Patterson is the mentor for this course. If you have an interest in learning more about where our Faith comes from, please contact Connie for more details (cp4675@att.net) or 771-1264.

Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

(BCP page 818)

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Organic? What's Organic?

USDA Organic means foods produced without using synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation or genetic engineering.

Do You Want to Get Involved?

Have you wanted to get more involved with things at St. Paul's but have been hesitant?

There are lots of ways you can contribute, both worship related and not. Contact Fr. Kirk at Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org for more information.



FIRST OFF, I'M HAPPY TO SEE THAT SO MANY OF YOU ARE ENJOYING THE NEW STREAMING OF OUR SERVICES ONLINE ...

Quote of the Month: Weapons

"You want weapons? We're in a library! Books! The best weapons in the world!"

— Doctor Who, Season 2, Episode 2

Coming Events



August 2017

Saturday	Aug. 05, 2017	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Sunday	Aug. 06, 2017	Confirmation/Reception Class	12:30 pm
Sunday	Aug. 06, 2017	Outreach Meeting	12:30 pm
Sunday	Aug. 06, 2017	Summer Book Study <i>"The Book of Joy"</i>	3:00 pm
Friday	Aug. 11, 2017	Start of <i>Men's Retreat @ Galilee thru 8/13</i>	6:00 pm
Sunday	Aug. 13, 2017	Confirmation/Reception Class	12:30 pm
Sunday	Aug. 13, 2017	Summer Book Study <i>"The Book of Joy"</i>	3:00 pm
Monday	Aug. 14, 2017	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Saturday	Aug. 19, 2017	Neighborhood Clean-up Day (8 am to noon)	8:00 am
Saturday	Aug. 19, 2017	No D.O.K.	10:00 am
Sunday	Aug. 20, 2017	Confirmation/Reception Class	12:30 pm
Sunday	Aug. 20, 2017	Summer Book Study <i>(if needed)</i>	3:00 pm
Friday	Aug. 25, 2017	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Saturday	Aug. 26, 2017	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Sunday	Aug. 27, 2017	Confirmation/Reception Class	12:30 pm
Sunday	Aug. 27, 2017	End of Summer BBQ	6:00 pm

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 *(off for this month)*

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. *(off for the summer)*

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

Men's Bible Study Group, "The Wired Word", Thursday Evening at 7:00 p.m. *(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. **Unless otherwise noted.**

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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P. O. Box 737
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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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