

The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
PO Box 737
Sparks, Nevada 89432
775-358-4474
www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards, Bishop

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Chip Arnold,
Associate Priest

The Rev. Sherryl Eyre,
Assistant Priest for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assistant Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

November 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...



Why Attend Church at All?

Each week you hear me say how grateful I am that you are in worship and how important it is for us to share in fellowship, the Word and Sacraments, and be fed and nourished in such a way that allows us to go out into the world and do what we are called to do.

Though this is a great answer to my question as to why attend church at all, I want to give you a different perspective. Why attend church? It's all about knowledge and muscle memory.

Here's an example. What's it like when you get into your own car at night? You slide into the seat and without even having to look, you strap on your seatbelt and slide your key into the ignition. You flip on the headlights, shift the transmission into gear, and off you go. As you approach the first stop sign you instinctively apply the proper amount of brake to safely stop.

What's it like to drive a car that is not your own? Sliding into the seat feels awkward. You have to look to latch the seatbelt and look at the ignition in order to insert the key. You fumble for the headlights and struggle with the gear shift. As you approach the first stop sign, odds are you will under brake or over brake.

When we drive the same car every day we learn how to operate it without thinking. It is this repetition that gives our bodies and minds what is called muscle memory. It is muscle memory that allows us to quickly react to danger without having to think about how to safely operate the car.

Why should we attend church at all? This is

why. Experiencing Episcopal liturgy and the sacraments each week forms in us Christ-like values that become muscle memory. When we are confronted with evil and darkness in the world, we instinctively turn on the head lights without having to look for them and we can safely apply the brakes on our words and actions when needed. It is muscle memory that allows us to both see Christ in others and be Christ for the world...and the world needs more seeing Christ and being Christ, so I'll see you on Sunday.



United Thank Offering

It's time for the Fall Ingathering of our United Thank Offering (UTO) "mite boxes".

Please place your UTO envelope or box in the offering plate during our church services between **November 5th and December 3rd**.

UTO is a national ministry of the Episcopal Church which collects money from every province to use in providing grants for schools, libraries, dental clinics for poor, homeless shelters, family counseling and many other very worthy programs at home and around the world.

Every cent of the collected UTO offering is granted. With all the recently-occurring disasters, it is especially needed at this time.

Please contact Jori Trimbell or Margaret Bouzek with any questions.

Thank you very much!

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, some worship related and some not.

Contact Fr. Kirk at Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org for more information.

You're Invited: It's Time to Party

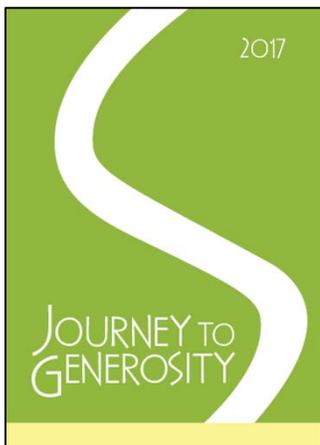
The Vestry and Stewardship Team invite you to a dinner party on Saturday, November 18, in the Parish Hall at 6 PM. We will dine on lasagna and celebrate all the time, talents and treasure given by the congregation to St. Paul's in 2017. All these gifts help God's love shine through St. Paul's into our parish and the world, so let's celebrate!

Also, during the evening there will be a large timeline banner on the Parish Hall walls. This banner will show many of the mileposts in St. Paul's history. We will invite you to add your personal mileposts to the banner with a magic marker, for example when you first came to St. Paul's or when you were baptized, etc. We also ask you to bring any photos, bulletins, mementos, etc. from St. Paul's past that you may have tucked away in drawers or on a shelf. Knowing and discussing St. Paul's history will help us better prepare for our future.

Everyone is invited and there is no cost. Please look for a sign up in the Narthex so we can plan for enough food. This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners and get to know each other a little better, so we hope to see you there!

Ingathering Sunday, November 19

We invite you to return a pledge card on or before Sunday, November 19, which is our



Ingathering Sunday. All returned pledge cards will be presented to God during the offering portion of worship.

The 2018 stewardship theme is "Journey to Generosity". St. Paul's journeys generously together through

sharing our time, talents and treasures throughout the year. As Bishop Dan wrote in a recent bulletin insert, "We get free to give from trusting God who loves us. When we dare to trust, God shows his love inviting us to trust more and live more freely. Life springs out of the consciousness traps like a jailbreak. That launches the adventure." Amen. Please attend worship on Sunday, November 19, to help us launch our newest adventure.

November in the Food Pantry

"It's a time for Thanksgiving!"

Holiday fix'ins. . . . boxed potatoes, dressing, gravy mixes, cranberry sauce etc.



"Wired Word"???

Some have asked for more information about what the format of the class we offer called "The Wired Word." We are currently offering it twice on Thursdays. The 11:00 a.m. is offered to anyone and the 7:00 p.m. is a men's study group.

If you join the group, you will receive an email with a news story, scripture links, and possible questions we might discuss. If you have lots of time, you can read the news story, the scriptures, and begin to process the questions. If you have a little time, you can read just the news story. If you have no time to prepare, just come and join in.

These groups are a safe place to begin talking about our own understandings about God, as well as a place to practice open communication with those who might have views that differ from your own.

If you want to join us, just show up. The 11:00 a.m. group meets in the choir room and the 7:00 p.m. men's group meets in the youth room.

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares Quilt Raffle.

Prayers & Squares is having a Raffle to raise funds for needed fabric and other items to make quilts. Tickets are \$2.00 each and are available between services from Peg Bibby or Margaret Bouzek. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office. 1st Prize is the Dachshund Quilt on display in the Narthex. The 2nd Prize is Quilted Baskets and the 3rd Prize is Assorted Quilted Kitchen Items.



The drawing will be November 19th between services. Please help support this ministry.



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, Dylan, 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, Robert, Jill, Sharon, Harry, Stan, Ruthie, Linda, Vedda, Eileen, Marge, Dillon, Madeline, Bob, Brock, Anita, Vickie, Katie, Vicky, Alex, Matthew, Dwight, Mae & family, Lerae, David, Mark, Kathy, Ray, Julia, James, Bert, Daniel, Sean, Tara, Donna, Damon, Eb, Judy, Paula's family, Gene, Lisa & children, Ken, Patti, Amy, Cari, Tia, Candi, Jack, Mary Kay, Flo, Donna's family, Pattie, Susan, Ed, Rev. Leslie, Janet, Ana, Fr. Towner, Dave, Lawrence, Frankie, Ernesto, Chawna & father, Christopher, Crystal, Joel, Laura M., Josefina, Alfred, Ann, Dorothy, Stuart, Al, Sue, Christina.

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

Angel Tree

Toy tags for Kids and Senior Gift tags will be available on the tree located in the Narthex beginning Nov. 12th. Please pick a tag with a specified gift and then return the tag and the UNWRAPPED gift to St. Paul's by Dec. 10th. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to call Barbara Papadakos at (775) 750-1575 or at Barbara.jee.papadakos@gmail.com.



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.

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 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:

November 5: Fun Activity- Details to be Announced Soon!

Daylight Savings is today so set your clocks back or you'll be early! Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will then carpool to do a fun activity.

November 12: Leaf Raking

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will go rake leaves for some of the elderly people in our congregation. Please bring work gloves and your favorite rake. Be sure to wear warm clothes (but not too warm because you will be raking and bagging) and sturdy shoes. We will return a little later around 12:30 PM.

November 19: Growing with God

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will eat lunch and then watch a few "Re: Form" videos and discuss. Games to follow.

November 26: No Meeting- Happy Thanksgiving!

Funding the Mission



For the third quarter of 2017, our operating receipts totaled \$60,771 and our operating expenses totaled \$62,609. This gave us an operating deficit for the quarter of \$1,838. However, the budget predicted a deficit of \$5,207 for the quarter, so in total we performed \$3,369 better than expected. Our receipts were lower than budgeted which is often typical during the summer, but we also had lower than expected expenses which more than made up for it.

Looking at the entire first nine months of 2017, our receipts have exceeded our expenses by \$4,296 and we have beaten our budget thus far by \$20,049.

There are still some building repairs and improvements that we are trying to complete before winter. However, now that summer is over and the Christmas season will be approaching, I am optimistic that the fourth quarter will bring even better news.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail regarding 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 you may contact us by email at Treasurer@stpaulssparks.org

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

Roger Towne, Treasurer

All Saints' Day

Join us as we celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 5th.

By Your Gifts We Are Blessed

This report covers two months and includes donations to a wide variety of outreach ministries.

Prayers and Squares - \$479 in quilt raffle ticket sales and donations of \$100

Community Garden - received donations of \$150

Miscellaneous Outreach - received an anonymous donation of \$4,703.90

The Community Food Pantry - received donations of \$576, as well as additional Empty Bowls ticket sales of \$260

Bishop's Discretionary Fund - \$723.78 collected at his annual visit

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for Hurricane Relief - donations collected of \$2,135.09

Clergy Discretionary Fund - donations of \$100 received

Patti Stine, Assistant Treasurer

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.

Congratulations to Deacon Mike

During the diocesan convention, Bishop Dan presented Deacon Mike with the 'For the Beauty of the Earth' award for his work on environmental stewardship. Deacon Mike and other Christian faith leaders traveled to Capitol Hill in February to urge their US Senators and Representatives to defend the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Natural Gas Waste Reduction Rule.

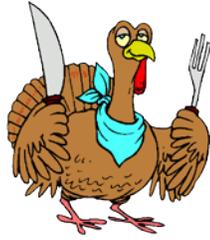
The BLM rule requires oil and gas operations on public and tribal lands to plug methane leaks. Each year, millions of dollars' worth of methane, the primary ingredient in natural gas, is wasted. The rule underwent significant stakeholder engagement processes, and religious communities participated with support statements and sign-on letters to decision-makers and trade associations. These letters noted that taxpayers lose out on more than \$330 million worth of methane each year as a result of wasteful leaking, venting, and flaring from oil and gas operations on federal and tribal land.

Thank you Deacon Mike for living out our Fifth Mark of Mission which is, "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."



Thanksgiving Day Pot-luck

St. Paul's will be hosting their 10th Annual Thanksgiving Day Pot-luck Luncheon in the parish hall at 1:00 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. There is absolutely NO expectation for you to come.



However, everyone in the parish is invited. This gathering is intended for anyone who does not yet have plans for a traditional Thanksgiving feast, as well as for those who simply would rather make a mess somewhere other than their own home. So, for those of you who might want to skip the local buffet line this year, bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish and/or dessert and enjoy a feast with other members of the St. Paul's community. If you would like to prepare a turkey or a ham please let us know...and stuffing, we can't run out of stuffing...and mashed potatoes too... Oh yes and pie, pie is good, don't forget the pie!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex (foyer). If you can sign-up it would be helpful (so we know how much meat to provide) but if you forget to sign-up, or if your plans change at the last minute and you want to join us, please come anyway. The Lord will provide. The parish hall will be open at noon and we'll eat at 1:00p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact John Hannah at jhannah.church@mymail775.net or 775-527-9444.

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Mondays: Spanish Language Ala-non @ 5p.m.

Tuesdays: Spanish Language Ala-non @ 6 p.m.

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

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

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

Fridays: Spanish Language Ala-non @ 6 p.m.

Ushers Needed

We are in desperate need of new ushers for both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. This is a ministry for anyone who can be friendly and has the ability to count. (This qualifies most of us.) Please consider joining the team. We would like to have enough people in this ministry that ushers would only get scheduled once a month. Please contact Walt Coopman 775-343-8818 or Fr. Kirk 755-358-4474.

"Voices of St. Paul's" Project

How did you come to the Episcopal Church originally, and to St. Paul's specifically? Whether a cradle Episcopalian or from a different faith tradition (or none!), we want to hear your story! We'll collect these to highlight online, and maybe even make a small book later on. All this will help us get to know each other better and be a resource for people considering St. Paul's as their church home. If you want to tell your story, click on this link <https://goo.gl/forms/sVxVRm3wg7xGMVjh2>! If you have any questions contact Daniel Villanueva (cdu4ever@aol.com) or call the parish office at 358-4474.

Assistive Hearing Devices for Worship

Do you need help hearing the service?

Go to the back of the church on the south side and check out a personal audio receiver! The speaker fits over your ear and you control the volume. You can bring your own ear buds if you want too.



Coming Events



November 2017

Saturday	Nov. 04, 2017	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Saturday	Nov. 04, 2017	<u>Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed!</u>	
Sunday	Nov. 05, 2017	All Saints' Day (all services)	
Sunday	Nov. 05, 2017	Baptisms at 9:00 a.m. service	
Sunday	Nov. 05, 2017	Outreach Meeting	12:30 pm
Monday	Nov. 13, 2017	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Thursday	Nov. 16, 2017	Stewardship Meeting	5:00 pm
Saturday	Nov. 18, 2017	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Saturday	Nov. 18, 2017	Stewardship 2017 Giving Party	5:00 pm
Sunday	Nov. 19, 2017	Stewardship: 2018 <i>Ingathering Sunday</i>	
Thursday	Nov. 23, 2017	Thanksgiving (<i>office closed</i>)	
Thursday	Nov. 23, 2017	Thanksgiving Day Pot-luck- Doors open at 12 eat at 1:00 pm	
Friday	Nov. 24, 2017	Family Day (<i>Office closed</i>)	
Saturday	Nov. 25, 2017	No Food Pantry	
Saturday	Nov. 25, 2017	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am
Saturday	Nov. 25, 2017	Epistle Deadline	12:00 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

Rector's Sabbath is every Tuesday

Choir Practice 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays 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

Spanish Alanon group meets, Mon. 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Tues. & Fri. 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

The Wired Word – Bible Study meets Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

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

Men's Study Group, The Wired Word, Thursday Evening at 7:00 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, Praise Service*
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