

The Epistle



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
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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. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assistant Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

December 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...

Due to a sore hand, Fr. Kirk is not writing his column this month.

Special Holiday Worship Times

Sunday, December 17th

Regular 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services
5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve (No 9am and 11am)

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols

5:00 p.m. Praise Service with
Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. Traditional Rite II

(Come at 10:15 to sing some carols)

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
(No music)

Sunday, December 31st

10:00 a.m. Praise Service with Holy
Communion (**only one morning service**)
5:00 p.m. Traditional Rite II, No Music

Sunday, January 7th

Regular schedule 9:00, 11:00, 5:00pm
All services will have a special Epiphany
performance.

Epiphany Play Casting Call

"Epiphany: The Light" will be presented at St. Paul's at all three services on Sunday, Jan 7, 2018. The cast calls for 6 players; 3 men, 1 woman, the other 2 either male or female.

The initial reading (casting) will be Saturday, December 9, at 1:00 pm at the church. We will rehearse each Saturday afternoon (except Dec. 23) until January 6, with performances on Jan 7.

If you are interested, please join us on December 9.

United Thank Offering

The Fall Ingathering of our United Thank Offering (UTO) "mite boxes" is almost over.

Please place your UTO envelope or box in the offering plate during church services on **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!

The Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 17th, **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 17th, 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.

Pledge Cards: It's not too late

Thank you very much to those who have turned in your pledge cards.

If you were unable to be with us for Ingathering Sunday, you can turn in your pledge cards by either putting them in the offering plate on Sunday, mail them to St. Paul's Episcopal Church c/o Pledge Clerk PO Box 737, Sparks, 89432, or drop them off at the office.

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 deadline for Flower dedications is noon on Wednesday, December 20th.



The **Christmas Offering** this year will be split between St. Paul's General Fund and Awaken. Look for information about Awaken in the narthex, or better yet, check them out at www.AwakenReno.com.

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

December in the Food Pantry

"Tis a Season of Giving!"

Pantry items of all kinds, canned goods, one meal boxes, chili, spaghetti etc.



Washington Irving said that Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

NO Narthex Christmas Mail Box

There will not be a Christmas card mailbox in the narthex this year. You are more than welcome to write each other cards, but you will need to pass them out yourselves.

"Wired Word"???

"The Wired Word" is currently offered 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 one of these groups, 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.

Angel Tree

All gifts will be due back to St. Paul's Dec. 10, 2017.

Please bring your gifts back UNWRAPPED.



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, Penny's family, Nick, Naoma, Robbie, Michael, William, Deb, Kathleen, Kirk, Sherryl, Polly.

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

Convention Delegates

Bishop's Election

During our next Diocesan Convention (November 30-December 1, 2018) we will elect our new bishop.

This is very exciting and will require a little more time from our delegates than usual, as they will have to attend more preparation meetings leading up to the election. Because of the importance and scale of the convention, those who wish to run for delegate will need to fill out a nomination form. If you would like to nominate yourself, or you would like to nominate someone else, please email Fr. Kirk to get more information about what is

expected, as well as to get the form. These forms will be published in the January Epistle.

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 28, 2018.

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares Quilt Raffle.

The Prayers and Squares Quilt Raffle was a tremendous success. \$1,032 was raised to purchase supplies to create more beautiful quilts for people in need of our prayers.



Winners were:

Quilt – Linda Devon

Quilted Baskets – Mary Lynch

Quilted Kitchen Items – Tia Mittelstadt

A HUGE Thank You to everyone who

purchased raffle tickets and made cash

donations. We look forward to another fund

raiser next year.

Snow Shovel Crew

We need: (contact Fr. Kirk)

1. Someone to organize a crew to shovel snow at the church on Sunday mornings when it snows.
2. People to volunteer to be on the Snow Shovel Crew to show up early to clear the snow.

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:

December 3: No EYC Today

Sunday, December 10: Service Project

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will eat lunch and do a service project. Details to be announced soon.

Sunday, December 17: Christmas Party

Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. Bring a white elephant gift worth no more than \$5. We will exchange gifts and make Christmas ornaments too. Lunch will be served.

December 24: No Meeting- Merry Christmas!

December 31: No Meeting- Happy New Year

January 7: No Meeting

By Your Gifts We Are Blessed

We only have a few things to report on this month.

The big news is that the total ticket sales for the Prayer's and Squares quilt raffle was \$1,032.00. Other donations for the month were \$77.00 to the Community Food Pantry, \$39.29 to UTO (United Thank Offering), and \$20.00 to Prayers and Squares.

Patti Stine, Assistant Treasurer

Request from the Pledge Clerk

This time of year we have many checks, offerings and payments for various things. Please help with the record keeping by indicating on your checks and envelopes exactly what the funds are for. Example: Christmas Flowers, Christmas Offering, Wreaths or greens etc.

If your check is for your Pledge, please indicate whether it's for 2017 or pre-paid for 2018.

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 2017 giving statement, all checks must be dated in 2017, and received in our office by Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018.

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

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.

“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.

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.

Help Us Save Lives This Winter

This winter we have the opportunity to save the lives of some of our homeless neighbors.

The skyrocketing cost of living continues to push more people into homelessness. There is a critical lack of capacity at the city's overflow shelter and there is much concern that many people will be stuck out in the cold vulnerable

to frostbite, illness, and even death. Our community is facing a crisis and I believe people of faith and goodwill can step up to make a difference.

In partnership with the City of Reno, several faith communities and other organizations have come together to recruit teams of volunteers to staff an emergency overflow shelter for the winter months (December 1-March 31). Groups of at least 3 volunteers will be needed each night from 8pm till 6am the following morning. The shelter will be at a central location near downtown. This is simply intended to be a warm place for folks to sleep, so volunteers will not need to provide meals or other kinds of services.

Volunteer training: There will be a volunteer training on Tuesday December 5th from 6:30 to 8pm at The First Congregational Church (627 Sunnyside Drive, Reno, NV 89503). The training will include a brief tour of an overflow shelter.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, or you are just curious, please let Fr. Kirk know and try to attend this meeting if possible.



(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

Coming Events



December 2017

Saturday	Dec. 02, 2017	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 03, 2017	No EYC	
Sunday	Dec. 03, 2017	Outreach Meeting	12:30 pm
Saturday	Dec. 09, 2017	Epiphany Play Rehearsal	1:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 11, 2017	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 16, 2017	D.O.K.	10:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 16, 2017	Epiphany Play Rehearsal	1:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 17, 2017	Greening of the Church after 11 am service	12:15 pm
Sunday	Dec. 17, 2017	Blue Christmas Service	5:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 23, 2017	No Food Pantry	
Sunday	Dec. 24, 2017	Lessons & Carols	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 24, 2017	No EYC	
Sunday	Dec. 24, 2017	Praise Service	5:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 24, 2017	Traditional Service	10:30 pm
Monday	Dec. 25, 2017	Christmas Day Service	10:00 am
Monday	Dec. 25, 2017	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 27, 2017	No Food Pantry	
Saturday	Dec. 30, 2017	No Food Pantry	
Saturday	Dec. 30, 2017	Epiphany Play Rehearsal	1:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 31, 2017	No EYC	
Sunday	Dec. 31, 2017	New Year's Eve	
Sunday	Dec. 31, 2017	Only One morning service	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 31, 2017	normal evening service (no music)	5:00 pm

Coming January 7th, The Epiphany Play

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.

2018 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, January 28th during a combined 10:00 a.m. service.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
(1135 12th Street)
P. O. Box 737
Sparks NV 89432

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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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