



December

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Chip Arnold,
Associate Priest

The Rev. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Jody Lediard
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mike Patterson
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

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WHO ARE WE?

St. Paul's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you belong here. Our understanding of belonging extends to those who are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered. Belonging here has no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we. You are worthy, so come as you are.

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



What's the X in XMas?

Xmas (also X-mas) is a common abbreviation of the word Christmas. I have found that some people are offended by the X and feel that people are trying to take Christ out of Christmas. For those of you who might not know, the "X" comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word Christós (Χριστός), which became Christ in English. The suffix -mas is from the Latin-derived Old English word for Mass. So, when you see Xmas, know that the name Christ is still there.

Oh... And while I'm here, I'll also say something about the term "Happy Holidays". When people say happy holidays to me, I'm just so glad they were pleasant and cared enough to hope that my celebratory season was/would be happy. Sometimes I wish people a Merry Christmas, but sometimes I wish them a Happy Holidays. Wishing non-Christians a Merry Christmas would be like wishing non-Jews a Happy Hanukkah....polite, but without personal connection. Happy Holidays is a term that is not only polite, but can be relational for all religious and non-religious folks alike.

So, from me to you, I'd like to wish you Happy Holidays, a Merry Xmas, and a Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Kirk" with a small cross above the letter 'i'.

Ordination at St. Paul's

Bryan Callen will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate here at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m.

Bryan is in his final year of seminary in Austin, Texas.

Join us as we welcome home Bryan, Jerilyn, and the kids for this big celebration.

Returning Financial Pledge Cards

If you haven't already returned your financial pledge card for 2020, please do so as soon as possible. You can place it in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to St. Paul's PO BOX 737 Sparks, NV 89432, or drop it off at the office. Having your pledge card helps the Vestry set next year's budget. Thank you!

Memorial Service for Bob Stoddard

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. here at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 14th to celebrate Bob's life among us and his new life in the resurrection. Please keep Julia and the family in your prayers.

An Evening of Christmas Music

December 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church presents:

An Evening of Christmas Music with special performances by Adam Teachout, Alissa Teachout, Angelese Pepper, and Ben Gallagher. They will be performing beloved and new Christmas songs.



There will be some audience participation in special carols. Come enjoy cello, marimba, piano and vocal presentations.

Tickets: Adults \$20

Children age 5-12 \$5 (Under 5 are free)

"Blue" Christmas Service

Saturday, Dec. 21st, 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.

Special Upcoming Worship Times

Saturday, December 21st

5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22nd

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols
(only 1 morning service)

5:00 p.m. Traditional Rite II with Holy Communion, no music

Christmas Eve, December 24th

5:30 p.m. Praise Service with Holy Communion
10:30 p.m. Traditional Rite II with Holy Communion, Carols begin at 10:00.

Christmas Day, December 25th

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

Sunday, December 29th

10:00 a.m. Praise Service with Holy Communion (only 1 morning service)

5:00 p.m. Traditional Rite II with Holy Communion, no music

Christmas Flowers & Special Offering

Envelopes for both Christmas flowers and Christmas offering are in the Narthex. A donation to the Christmas flowers 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 Laundry Love. Deadline for flower dedications is noon on Dec. 20th.

Annual Parish Meeting: January 26th

There will be only one **10:00 a.m.** service on January 26th. This service will be in conjunction with our annual parish meeting. Please join us.

December in the Food Pantry

"Tis the Season for Giving!" All kinds of pantry items! Canned, boxed, or bagged!



Church School News

This year the St. Paul's church school made approximately 60 fleece scarves to give out at the food pantry before

Thanksgiving.

We talked about what they were thankful for and why we give of ourselves to those who are not as fortunate as we are. Once



we were done with the scarves, the children were allowed to pick out their favorite scarf to keep. Every time they use the scarf, it will be a good reminder of the good deed done for people who need to keep warm this holiday season. Thank you to the food pantry volunteers who handed out the scarves for us!

Nancy Lightfoot

Building Improvement Program Update

GOAL: Correct major physical deficiencies in the St. Paul's facility which endanger the continuation of its mission while working to do so while not seriously impacting the financial health of this parish.



October and November were busy months for our team. An extra special thank you goes out to Margaret Bouzek and her fund-raising team for the wonderful job they have done so far. The Phantom of the Opera events went very well both from an audience response and financial perspective. The final numbers are not in yet, but the events raised over \$8,000.

Based on our progress on fund-raising and information about potential monies, the roof team is moving forward. We hope that you will see construction there before next Fall.

In addition, we have some more fun fund-raising events planned for 2020. There will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner with an auction. The quilters will be back the first week of March for another UFO Days. This time we are encouraging others who do handwork to join us. Another Quilting Retreat at Camp Galilee is scheduled for November, and hopefully Dorothy Papadakos will come back for another concert in the Fall.

Next month I hope to publish a proposed calendar for the activities planned for this exciting program next year. Thank you all for your continued support.

This month's special requests:

1. We are looking for items to include in the St. Patrick's Day Dinner Auction. Please think of items that you could donate that might earn at least \$50 in the auction. Baskets of goodies would be just wonderful! Leave them in the Office or give them to Linda Kennedy between services on Sunday.
2. Anyone comfortable using a computer and the Internet is needed to help research funding opportunities. Contact me at linda.kennedy.nv@gmail.com if you can help.

Faithfully yours,
Linda Kennedy
Program Manager

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Mon, Tues, Fri: Spanish Ala-non @ 6:00 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.

Daughters of King Reading Program

The Daughters of the King are collecting gently used books for children in grades 1 thru 6. These books will be donated to children in our area through the program Spread the Word. As an incentive to promote reading, the children will win prizes after completing a certain number of books. Last year Spread the Word gave over 30,000 books to children in Nevada. Won't you please support us in our book drive? Every book donated is a book a child can treasure as their very own. There is a donation box in the narthex. For more information, contact Connie Patterson at cp4675@att.net or 775-771-1264.

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, Larry, Anne, Nanette, Philip, Ernest, Preston, Jameson Walker, Ella, Paul, Ryan, Alyson, Frank, Barbara, Jill, Steve, Ruthie, Marge, Dillon, Madeline, Vickie, Matthew, Alex, Ken, Patti, Susan, Sue, Ruth, Baby Bo, Hailey, Zac, Nolan, Ted, Sharon, Stan, Jaemie, Bonnie, Jeff, Mike, Bethany, Emerson, Zavie, Everett, Brianna, Alyssa, Don, Michael, Eileen, Lance, Bengt, Randy, Leon, Pinkie, Ron, Victoria, Debbie, Charlie, John, Sandy, Jan, Michelle, Garry, Julia, Bob's family & friends, Alex, Carolyn, Linda, Jeanette, Steve, Martin's family, Derek, Elizabeth, Veronica, Ana, Rori. **Military:** Andrew, Ryan, Jeffrey, Sierra, Owen, Bria, Evanne, Alex, Suzanne, Mason, David, Paul, Roger, Shylo, Alberto, Tristan.

Want Something in the Newsletter?

Email it to Office@StPaulsSparks.org **and to** Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org by the 25th each month.

AARP Smart Driver Courses

REFRESH YOUR DRIVING SKILLS

Take the AARP Smart Driver™ classroom course and you could save money on your car insurance. *Sign up today!*

CLASSROOM COURSE

\$15 for AARP members | \$20 for non-members

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
December 9, 2019
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Parish Hall

Entrance to Parish Hall is located on the south side of the building through the black iron gate to the left of the large wooden gates. Call Lorrie: 775-583-8208



TOYOTA

This program is supported by a generous grant from Toyota to AARP Foundation.

*Upon completion you may be eligible to receive an auto insurance discount. Other restrictions may apply. Consult your agent for details.

Laundry Love

This once a month ministry helps people do their laundry so they can use their limited funds on medicine, rent, etc. Doing a load of laundry is expensive, so we continually collect quarters (or other \$\$ that we can turn into quarters). Monetary donations can either be handed to Linda Devon or designate it in an envelope and put it in the offering plate.



If you have any questions or interest in helping with ministry, contact Linda Devon at LSD4764@hotmail.com.

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 Tia or Jon Mittelstadt at 775-722-3329 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:

Sunday, December 8: No Meeting

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Shopping
Meet in the youth room at 10:15 AM. We will carpool to Meadowood Mall. Bring money to eat lunch in the food court. You will have time to do some Christmas shopping for your friends and family if you like- so bring extra money if you plan on shopping. We will also do a short, fun Christmas photo scavenger hunt to do while you are shopping. We will return around 1:00 pm.

December 22: Christmas Fun!

Later Meeting Time- Only One Worship Service

Only one service at 10 AM today. Meet in the youth room from 11:15 AM to 1:00 PM. We will eat lunch, play some Christmas games, do some Christmas crafts and watch a Christmas movie.

December 29: No Meeting- Happy New Year

January 5: No Meeting

By Your Gifts We Are Blessed

Donations for the month include \$20.00 to Prayers and Squares, \$22.70 to Laundry Love, \$100.00 to Helping Hands, \$305.00 to the Community Food Pantry, \$70.00 to UTO (United Thank Offering), and \$6.00 to Youth Ministries.

Memorials were also received for Bob Stoddard (\$25.00), Al Schultz (\$25.00), and Darlene Stringer (\$100.00).

Patti Stine
Assistant Treasurer

Prayers and Squares Ministry

Prayers & Squares meets in the Parish Hall on the 4th Saturday of each month, where quilts are cut out, sewed, and prayer threads inserted. Knowing how to sew is not necessary as there are many other tasks involved in making the quilts. When the quilts are completed, they are placed in the new Quilt Cabinet in the Narthex. Anyone can view and select a quilt for someone in need.

To request a quilt, contact Margaret Bouzek at margaret.bouzek@gmail.com, Peg Bibby at ragladypeg@att.net, the Parish Office, or any member of Prayers & Squares.

Thank you for your support.
Margaret Bouzek, Team Leader

Angel Tree

We will need the **UNWRAPPED** tagged gifts back to St. Paul's no later Dec. 15th for the toys. Senior tags were due back on the 1st. If you took a senior tag & did not yet return it, please do so before Dec. 4th. If there are any questions, contact Barbara.jee.papadacos@gmail.com or (775) 750-1575.

Thank you, Barbara Papadacos

Funding the Mission

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks
October 2019*

(*Note: This was inadvertently left out of last month's Epistle. We extend our apologies...the new Epistle staff.)

The financial results for the first nine months of 2019 are as follows. Our operating receipts totaled \$208,918 and our operating expenses totaled \$194,701. This has given us an operating surplus for the year so far of \$14,217 compared to the budget's prediction of a \$9,816 deficit.

This is an amazing turnaround from the report I gave at the end of June. At that point we were running a \$773 deficit and we seemed to be on a path to land somewhere near our forecasted deficit of \$18,803 for 2019.

This good news is almost entirely attributable to an increase in receipts, primarily unpledged donations in the third quarter. Although lower than expected expenses saved us over \$7,000 compared to budget, unpledged giving exceeded its budget by over \$17,000 over the summer.

I now have a new optimism that we can again add to our rainy day fund for 2019. The budget calls for a deficit of \$4,309 over the last quarter, but with your continued support and generosity, I hope to announce an annual operating surplus for the 3rd year in a row at our January annual meeting.

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.

Coming Events



December 2019

Sunday	Dec. 01, 2019	Outreach Meeting	12:30 pm
Thursday	Dec. 05, 2019	Thursday Bible Study	12:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 07, 2019	Ordination of Bryan Callen	1:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 08, 2019	Prayers & Squares Holiday Sales	10:30 am
Sunday	Dec. 08, 2019	Neighborhood Homeless Response Meeting	12:30 pm
Monday	Dec. 09, 2019	AARP Smart Driver Course	12:00 pm
Monday	Dec. 09, 2019	Vestry Meeting	6:00 pm
Thursday	Dec. 12, 2019	Thursday Bible Study	12:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 14, 2019	Memorial for Bob Stoddard (Reception following)	11:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 14, 2019	Christmas Concert	7:00 pm
Thursday	Dec. 19, 2019	Thursday Bible Study	12:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 21, 2019	DOK	10:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 21, 2019	Blue Christmas Service	5:00 pm
Sunday	Dec. 22, 2019	Advent Lessons & Carols	10:00 am
Sunday	Dec. 22, 2019	EYC (Time change)	11:15 am
Tuesday	Dec. 24, 2019	Christmas Eve Early Service	5:30 pm
Tuesday	Dec. 24, 2019	Christmas Eve Late Service	10:30 pm
Wednesday	Dec. 25, 2019	Christmas Day Service	10:00 am
Wednesday	Dec. 25, 2019	Epistle Deadline	12:00 pm
Thursday	Dec. 27, 2019	Laundry Love (<i>Oddie Blvd. Laundromat</i>)	6:00 pm
Saturday	Dec. 28, 2019	Prayers & Squares	9:00 am

Recurring Events

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

Mid-Week Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 12:15 p.m.

EYC meets every Sunday @ 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room (unless otherwise published)

Rector's Sabbath is every Tuesday

Bible Study every Thursday @ 12:00 p.m.

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. 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

Last Thursday of the Month, Laundry Love Ministry – Laundromat on Oddie Blvd. 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**

NEW*Food Pantry Mobile Unit, Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

***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



Sun., 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Praise
Sun., 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Traditional
Sun., 5:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharistic, No Music
Wed., 12:15 p.m. Mid-Week Holy Eucharist