



May

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
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Sparks, Nevada 89432
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The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Chip Arnold,
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mike Patterson
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Jody Lediard
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.

Need Toilet Paper?

Contact the church.

Need Food?

Contact the church.

**If you need anything,
contact the church.**

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

Why do I wear a mask in public?

- #1 Because black is slimming.
- #2 Because I secretly have always wanted to be a bandit.
- #3 Because it covers up the ugly.
- #4 Because I love you.
- #5 All of the above.



Yes, the answer is #5 All of the above, but the greatest of these is love.

I wear a mask in public because I love you.

I love you, the elderly woman in front of me at the checkout line. I love you, the child who won't keep your mask on and your single parent who had no choice but to bring you into the grocery store. I love you, the dude with the t-shirt wrapped around your face because you are being socially responsible the best you can. I love you, the person who refuses to wear a mask because you believe this is all overblown. I love you, who insist that wearing a mask is a violation of your freedom. I love you, the clearly worn out hospital employee who is wearing an awesome homemade mask that makes me smile. I love you, my parishioners, family, and friends who I can't wait to see in person.

I wear a mask in public because I love you.

It is our love for one another that will get us through.



Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Details can be found on under the online worship tab at StPaulsSparks.org

From the Pile: Part Two

Part one was really last month when I asked you to please pray about this...

"In your heart, do you believe in the importance of social distancing? Symptom free people are infecting others by continuing to enter people's homes and by giving people rides to the store. I encourage you to meditate on how social distancing is the most important way right now to love your neighbor.

Doing what is right to love your neighbor, friend, etc., has never been this hard."

Now, here we are one month later. Has anything changed in your understanding of social distancing? The need is still with us. It is still the best way we can love one another and share the healing love of Jesus.

It is true. **WE ARE ALL** tired of social distancing, but we can't give into temptation now. I'll admit that I have not be perfect, but even more than ever, we can't be tempted to say to ourselves, "It is okay to visit someone in their home. I can give them a ride in my car. I'm not sick, it will be okay. It won't happen to me."

Don't lose hope. Hold fast in the faith. Trust in the Lord. Follow social distancing guidelines, which includes wearing a mask in public.



What will it look like when we return?

At this point, we don't know exactly what it will look like when we return to common worship. We can say we're pretty sure it will look differently for a while. One thing we have all learned over the past months is that we can handle different. I could speculate about some particulars, but I won't. Just know that we will return and no matter what it looks like, it will be wonderful, and it will glorify God.

Funding the Mission

April 2020



Although the first quarter of 2020 ended with the world battling a pandemic, our financial results finished on a positive note. Operating receipts totaled \$90,365 and operating expenses totaled \$72,704. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$17,661 which beat the budget's predicted surplus of \$13,327 by \$4,334. It's typical in the first quarter for us to run a significant surplus because several parishioners give their entire yearly pledge at the beginning of the year. However, beating the 1st quarter's budgeted surplus by over \$4,000 is due to lower than expected expenses.

As we enter the 2nd quarter with a several online worship Sundays behind us, I do see some drop in receipts. It's hard to predict how significant this will be to our financial well-being. We do have opportunities to offset these shortfalls with lower expense. For example, our utility bills will be lower, and we won't have any expense in a few other areas (e.g. flowers, wine). I should be able to better assess and forecast our financial health in my 2nd quarter report published in July.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity but is not being posted in the narthex at this time. If you would like me to email you a copy, send me an email at the address below.

You can direct questions personally to myself (Roger Towne) or to any Vestry member or contact me by email at Treasurer@stpaulssparks.org

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

Prayers of the People

This is such a trying time for everyone. We cannot emphasize enough the power of prayer. We are not praying for anyone specific but everyone as a whole. With this outbreak of COVID19 virus, all of our lives have been touched adversely in some way, so everyone needs prayers now more than ever.

Please keep all family, neighbors, co-workers and people in your community in your everyday prayers and keep positive thoughts that we will be able to return to our lives as we knew them before this event took place. We need to remain vigilant in our everyday life to maintain a healthy existence physically, mentally and spiritually.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

We are seeking people to participate in a Bible Study, Thursday evenings on ZOOM.

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Beginning May 14th

This study is 5 weeks long. If you want to participate, we ask that you commit to all 5 weeks. We want to keep the groups fairly small, so we need you to RSVP, so we can see how many ZOOM groups we need to set up.

To sign up, please RSVP to Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

Here is a little bit about the Bible Study.

ANGLICAN ALLIANCE BIBLE STUDIES:
FAITH IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Foreword by the Archbishop of Canterbury
I am delighted to commend to you Faith in the time of Coronavirus and am deeply grateful to the Anglican Alliance for creating this resource. In such extraordinary times, it is not only helpful but vital that we engage together with God's Word. Firstly, it enables us to root ourselves in the truth of God's utter faithfulness. We discover afresh that, in Christ, we are never abandoned but are held by God,

who comes alongside us. Secondly, God's Word calls us to action. In opening Scripture together, we are reminded that we are the body of Christ, with new opportunities to serve our communities and to witness very practically to Christ's love. And thirdly, we are filled anew with authentic hope. We can live the present and look to the future knowing the sovereignty of God and His reconciling love. I pray that, through these encouraging Bible studies, we will find comfort, strength and inspiration from God's word, and be empowered by the Spirit to share that comfort and grace in these difficult days.

Archbishop Justin Welby, April 2020

Introduction to the Bible Study:

A Call to Mission

At this time all parts of the Anglican Communion are affected in some way by the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. This set of Bible studies has been developed by the Anglican Alliance in consultation with a small group of biblical scholars, theologians and church leaders as a resource to help Christians reflect on their faith and scriptures in this troubling time of COVID-19. The Bible studies seek to create space for us to bring our hopes and fears before God and build resilience and trust. They allow us to lament all that brings sorrow and suffering and to reflect on how we can support those most impacted by this crisis. Above all, the Bible studies seek to help us to find hope, in reflecting on God's presence and love, and how God shares our sorrow and suffering and brings assurance of new life. All across the Communion, churches are shutting their buildings as public health measures are implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But even if the building is closed, the

Church is still there, present in the people, the living body of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time when God calls us into an ever-deeper participation in God's mission.

The Community Food Pantry

If you are in need of food, we will be open EVERY WEDNESDAY from 5:30-7pm until further notice. We are practicing social distance, but we will be able to get you some food. Please message us if you need further information. Location 1135 12th Street Sparks, NV (behind the Library). Our normal Wednesday 10:00 to 12:00 and Saturday 9:00 to 11:00 are still operational this is just an additional opportunity.



We might very well be in need of some volunteers for food pick-up and shelving the food, as well as pre-bagging before distribution days. If you want to help, email Barbra Monroy bmonroy0216@gmail.com.

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 this ministry, contact Linda Devon at LSD4764@hotmail.com.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Phone: 775-358-4474

Fax: 775-313-0806

E-Mail: office@stpaulssparks.org

Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here



Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

Online Worship: Check at StPaulsSpark.org