



# The Epistle 2020

## August

### ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 737  
Sparks, Nevada 89432  
775-358-4474  
[www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://www.StPaulsSparks.org)

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.

#### Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays  
8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Details can be found under the online worship tab at [www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://www.StPaulsSparks.org).

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



### A Sad Goodbye to our Sycamore Tree

I am sad to announce that the beautiful 60 to 65-year-old Sycamore tree that is the centerpiece of our memorial garden had to be removed on July 21st.

This was not an easy decision but one that had to be made. Over the past winter the roots surfaced and have caused such damage to the garden that it is not safe to allow the public inside the gates to enjoy the garden's peace and beauty.

We had three separate professional Arborists evaluate the tree. They all said the same thing, "If there was a way to save the tree they would, but there is not." We were left with the option of either keeping the tree or keeping the garden.

In order to repair the damage, parts of the garden will have to be disassembled, cleaned up, and then reassembled. With the removal of the tree, there will have to be some redesign of the garden. The committee recognizes that in the present time of Covid-19, we will most likely be worshiping in the garden more than just on the Day of Pentecost. With that in mind, the committee is exploring ways to maintain the current essence of the garden while adding some more square footage that will lend itself to meaningful worship space.

The committee members are Sandy and Doug Houston, Dick Stufflebeam, Tim Miller, and me. We will work with professional landscape designers to help us revision the future of our garden.

I'll close in prayer.

Let us pray:

Gracious Creator, giver of life and all that is good, we thank you for our Sycamore tree. We thank you for its beauty and for the generation of shade it has given the Earth. During a time when losing one more thing seems unbearable, we know you are with us in our loss. Open our eyes and hearts to new perspectives, new possibilities, and a new vision for the sacredness of our garden, resurrect a new beauty for us to enjoy. This we pray with a heaviness in our hearts, trusting that the weight will be lifted. Amen.

Gratefully,



## St. Paul's

### Food Pantry Vegetable Garden News:



The garden has done well this summer, we have been harvesting squash, cucumbers, strawberries, green beans, tomatoes and herbs for the last three weeks. The Food Pantry clients appreciate the fresh organic vegetables. If you are interested in weeding & tending, I am

usually at the garden on Monday's, Wednesday's and Saturdays at 7:45 am, Please feel free to show up to help - call me, Mary Gonzales 505-730-7722 and let me know if you would like to help, so I know you are coming. Masks are required, but we are outside, and the fresh air is a blessing.

## Funding the Mission July 2020



Although we are four months into the pandemic with suspended in person worship services, our financial results continue to be very positive. Operating receipts for the second quarter totaled \$82,923 and operating expenses totaled \$71,224. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$11,699 which beat the budget's predicted deficit of \$6,702 by \$18,401.

The larger six-month picture is equally positive. Our total operating surplus for the year stands at \$29,360. The 2020 budget predicted a \$6,625 surplus at this point.

Unlike last quarter where our moderate budget beating numbers were due to lower than expected expenses, this quarter's large surplus was almost entirely due to higher than expected donations. General giving, even in the absence of passing the physical plate at services, exceeded the budget by \$4,500, and pledge donations exceeded the 2nd quarter budget by over \$13,000. On the expense side for the 2nd quarter, we were right on track. Several of our normal expenses were lower due to the building being closed, but those savings were offset by some unbudgeted Covid-19 expenses (e.g. audio-visual equipment for Zoom worship, extra cleaning, etc).

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.

## Worship Survey Results

102 people took the worship survey! Thank you all so much. This will help us with our planning for the future.

Note: Not all questions were answered by everyone, so not all totals will equal 102.

### Q1 Are you currently participating in St. Paul's online Zoom worship?

Yes, As much as possible.	56
Occasionally.	21
No, I am not.	25

### Q2 Did you participate when worship was on Facebook?

Yes, As much as possible.	60
Occasionally.	19
No, I am not.	23

### Q3 If you are not participating in online worship, why not?

I don't have the technology to do so.	7
I don't understand how to use Zoom.	7
I simply refuse to worship online.	8

### Q4 Would you attend worship OUTDOORS if St. Paul's is allowed to offer it?

Yes, I can't wait!	20
Yes, if we can maintain social distancing guidelines.	40
Maybe, it depends on the level of current infection rate.	31
No, not until there is a vaccine.	11

**Q5 Would you attend worship INDOORS if St. Paul's is allowed to offer it?**

Yes, I can't wait! 16  
Yes, if we can maintain social distancing guidelines. 30  
Maybe, it depends on the level of current infection rate. 35  
No, not until there is a vaccine. 21

**Q6 If yes, would you be willing to attend if wearing a mask is required?**

YES, I would be willing to wear a mask during in-person worship. 88  
No, I will not wear a mask. 3

**Q7 If yes, would you be willing to attend if the gathering was a "no contact" gathering. No hugs. No handshakes. No elbow bumps.**

YES. 86  
NO. 4

**Q8 Would you attend in person worship if we were not allowed to offer Holy Communion?**

YES. 86  
NO. 8

**Q9 Would you attend in person worship if we were not allowed to sing?**

YES. 85  
NO. 9

**Q10 What is your primary service time?**

9:00 51  
11:00 19  
5:00 9  
Varies 7

**The August Epistle  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
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P. O. Box 737  
Sparks NV 89432**

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