



November

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(1135 12th Street)
P. O. Box 737
Sparks NV 89432
775-358-4474

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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From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk... An Important Message from the Woodliffs.



Below is something I wrote a month or so ago to help me process a life event.

My almost 20-year-old middle child has asked that I share it with St. Paul's.

Kirk+

Gender Reveal, Cobra Kai, and a New Name

Not every gender reveal party has an explosion which ends in a raging fire of destruction. Sometimes there is no blue or pink, just love and balance.

We experienced a big reveal at our house recently. Tricia and I were in the middle of watching an episode of The Karate Kid spin off, Cobra Kai on Netflix. Our son Cooper came in and asked if it was an okay time to hit pause. We were handed a simple gift bag. In it was a card. The cover read, "Congratulations!" Inside, the preprinted message said, "You really have something to celebrate... and you deserve to be celebrated!"

Underneath the preprinted message in Cooper's handwriting it said, "You now have two daughters." Also, in the bag was a book titled, The Transgender Teen: A Handbook for Parents and Professionals Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Teens.

Cooper then said, "It's a gender reveal party!" and they blew on one of those noise makers that extends out like a frog's tongue. Daisy, our Great Dane, was now included in the celebration, as she was the only one actually surprised about the reveal ...she did not like the surprise of the noise maker and let us all know about it...It was a bit exciting.

Yes, Daisy was the only one surprised by the reveal. Cooper has been in "gender" therapy for over a year...not therapy to correct or heal their gender, but therapy to help guide Cooper in the process of learning who they are on the inside and to help them process what it means to have the inside truth be embraced, loved, and expressed on the outside.

Though Cooper's first reveal seemed more sudden when at age 13 he came out as gay, this reveal has come slowly and in stages. As we learned (and continue to) about the spectrum of gender, we have shared a safe space with Cooper moving from gay male to non-binary, and now into transgender female. I'll admit, the journey through the pronouns of male, gender neutral, and female has not been easy, but it's important. Using the proper pronouns for someone is a sign of love and dignity but having to retrain this old brain of mine takes practice, as it will for you too.

There is a sense of holiness and power within living into the authenticity of our names. God has shown us this through the lives of Abram and Sari being renamed Abraham and Sarah, Jacob becoming Israel, and Simon being renamed Peter. Who they were on the inside didn't change, but their new names brought with them a new authentic relationship with the world, a life that God called them to live.

The name... My mind goes back to the process it took for Tricia and I to come up with Cooper's name. We were both school teachers, so finding a name that didn't carry baggage was not easy. It happened in an indoor Sonic in Austin, Texas. We had never been in a Sonic that was not a drive-thru. Tricia's due date was fast approaching and there we were struggling to find a name while enjoying some cheese tatter tots. A toddler broke away from his grandmother and there it was revealed. She

hollered out Cooper, get back here! The rest was history.

As we know with history, our stories don't end, they continue in new ways. Though I mourn the loss of Cooper (the name, not my child), I celebrate a new name, one that brings hope, joy, and life to my child, my daughter Cassidy.

As a huge weight was lifted off my oldest daughter's soul and a smile beamed from her heart, life continued. The dog settled down, Cassidy went to her room, and we un-paused Cobra Kai. Timing is everything right? The Holy Spirit is funny that way. It was then that the 36-year-old sacred words of Mr. Miyagi reappeared in a flashback from the original story of The Karate Kid... Mr. Miyagi says to Daniel-san, "You remember lesson about the balance? Lesson not just karate only. Lesson for whole life. Whole life have a balance. Everything be better. Understand?"

Yes, I understand.

"You really have something to celebrate... and you deserve to be celebrated!"

I love you Cass.

PS...(If you need help understanding the gender spectrum, try <https://www.genderspectrum.org/>)

Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays on ZOOM

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays on Facebook

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

From Deacon Mike

Prayers have been answered. Patricia now has a new place to live! Amen.

Monthly Update: When Will We Open?

The To-Do-List:

- ~~1. We have been approved to open for indoor and outdoor worship.~~
- ~~2. The Deep Cleaning is Complete~~
3. The Prayer Books and Hymnals removed.
4. The floors marked for social distancing.
5. Social Distancing signage and Mask and Hygiene signage needs to be displayed.
6. Health Prescreening signs need to be made and displayed.
7. Disinfecting and PPE stations need to be created.
8. New Usher Teams and Greeter Teams need to be established and trained.
9. Volunteer Cleaning Teams need to be established and trained.
10. Live Stream Video Teams need to be established and trained.

THEN...

11. Washoe County Infection numbers are safe.
12. Fr. Kirk sets the opening date.

How can you help get Washoe's number safe?

- Wear your mask.
- Socially Distance.
- Wash your hands.

Covid hits too close to home

By Millie Mitchell

The Mitchell family has learned a hard lesson recently about the need to be ever vigilant against Coronavirus. We cannot let our guard down, especially as winter approaches and we'll be spending more time indoors. Three households in my family have been hit with Coronavirus because the warning signs were missed. What warning signs? If you or someone in your home, circle, bubble, etc. is feeling a bit "under the weather," has the sniffles ("It's just a

cold."), is having some gastro-intestinal issues, etc. you must assume that this is Coronavirus - rather than run of the mill health issues we all deal with in normal times. These are not normal times and all of the symptoms I just listed are also associated with Coronavirus and Covid-19. Be especially cautious when opening your doors to young children as their runny nose could very likely be the source of something you don't want. That's what happened in my family. Three adults and counting have tested positive for Covid-19 and two children are presumed positive. Fortunately, I was not in close enough contact with my impacted family members to have been infected, yet I went ahead and was tested anyway for my own peace of mind. I'm negative. More good news -- all of my family members have recovered and have been cleared by the health department.

There are lots of resources available on the internet and I'm not a medical professional, but here's a link to a helpful chart comparing symptoms of Covid vs. flu, cold, and allergies. <https://www.childrensmercy.org/siteassets/media/covid-19/coronavirus-vs-cold-vs-flu-vs-allergies.pdf>

The biggest takeaway from all of this is the need to assume that someone with symptoms is Covid positive until proven otherwise.

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALES

It's that time of year again! Decorate your door, or send a lovely wreath to a family member or friend far away.

Here are the pages for the catalog:

Wreath Catalog Page 1:

<http://stpaulssparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Wreaths-DirectDelivery-page-1-1.pdf>

Wreath Catalog Page 2:

<http://stpaulssparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Wreaths-DirectDelivery-page-2.pdf>

<http://stpaulssparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Wreaths-DirectDelivery-page-2.pdf>

Wreath Catalog Page 3:

<http://stpaulssparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Wreaths-ShippingItems.pdf>

As always, there are two pages with items that will be delivered here in town (titled Direct Delivery), and there is another page (titled Shipping Items) with items that can be shipped to any of the lower 48 states.

Prices are all-inclusive, so no extra tax and/or shipping.

If you would like to order, please email me directly at LSD4764@hotmail.com, or you can call or text me at 775-750-4029. I will reply to you either way, so if you do not hear from me, please call directly. I will be checking my spam mail, just in case. The final order goes in on Monday, November 9, 2020 - only three weeks away. (Please note, I work M-F, 8:00-5:00, so I may not be able to answer during these times.)

Payment can be made by sending checks to St. Paul's or by using tithe.ly.com on the St. Paul's website. On [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly.com) there is an option for "Christmas Wreaths" in the drop-down box. This year's proceeds will benefit the Laundry Love program.

Assuming things remain the same and we are not able to meet at church, I will make arrangements to get your order to you. Wreaths arrive the week after Thanksgiving.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Linda Devon

LSD4764@hotmail.com 775-750-4029

2021 Pledge Campaign



The theme for our 2021 pledge campaign is "Faith Filled Generosity".

Please read these **Three things to know about St. Paul's pledge campaign:**

1. There will soon be an online form available for making a 2021 pledge to St. Paul's. Paper pledge cards will also be available.
2. A pledge is a response to God's blessings and an outward and visible sign of commitment to St. Paul's. Pledging helps us live generously following the way of Jesus (Matthew 6:19-21).
3. Pledging allows Vestry to make a budget for the year ahead and plan for new and existing ministries at St. Paul's.

We will be sharing more information about how to make a 2021 pledge in the weeks to come. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Kirk at kirk@stpaulssparks.org or Jon Mittelstadt, Stewardship Chair, at jon.mittel@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting God's work at St. Paul's!

2020 Tried and True St. Paul's Cookbook

These days many of us are cooking more at home or even just beginning to cook. If you have a favorite recipe or have found a new one or one that you have used over and over in 2020 you might think about sharing it. We are thinking about putting together an online **2020 Tried and True** cookbook. If you have a recipe you would like to share send it to Donna Margerum at djmargerum@gmail.com.

Funding the Mission of St. Paul's October 2020



Operating receipts for the third quarter totaled \$57,340 and operating expenses totaled \$63,915. This resulted in an operating deficit for the quarter of \$6,575. The budget predicted a deficit of \$3,100. A

drop in pledge and general giving was the primary driver of the quarter's deficit. The deficit would have been higher, but lower than normal expenses helped soften the downturn in giving.

On a more upbeat note, the cumulative results for the year are still very positive. As of September 30th, we have run a surplus of \$22,785. Lower than expected expenses were again the main contributor, but giving and other income for the first 9 months exceeded the budget prediction by 2%.

I am hopeful that receipts will continue to be in line with expenses for the rest of the year, but predictions are dangerous during a pandemic. However, even if we ran double the budget's predicted deficit of \$6,101 for the 4th quarter, we would still end the year with an operating surplus of just over \$10,000 for 2020.

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.

The Need for Holy Communion

A repeat...In case you missed it last month.

Home Aumbry and the Real Presence of Christ

There is an aumbry behind the altar in the church sanctuary. It houses all things blessed – chrism for baptisms, healing oil, blessed communion wafers & wine. Hanging above it is our sanctuary lamp (aumbry light/candle) which we inherited from St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Reno, when it closed. When you walk into the Nave and look up towards the sanctuary, you see the candle burning. When lit, it signifies not only the presence of all things blessed within the aumbry, but it indicates the presence of something even greater...inside the aumbry beyond the veil is the sacred, real presence of Jesus. I envision this holy essence of Christ waiting patiently to nourish our lives when we are ready to consume it and once we do, we become carriers of the real presence to nourish and heal the world.

It has been too long for some of us...we have forgotten what it means to be in communion with one another and forgotten that we are carriers of the real presence of Christ.

So, I invite you to Christ’s table in a new yet still sacred and holy way.

On Sundays, we will make Communion together, me and my “plus one” at the church, and you at home watching on Zoom.

Following the service, you can email Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org to request Communion for you/your family. (If you don’t have an email, call the parish office: 775-358-4474.)

You can pick up your Communion Wednesday-Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (later pick-up times by special arrangement).

An important note:

This Communion is not for immediate consumption and with it comes great responsibility. What you are taking home is the real presence of Jesus. It should be treated as such, which is why we store Communion in an

aumbry...an intentional place set aside for respect and reverence of all things blessed.

If you wish to partake in Communion, you will need to create your own aumbry per se, an intentional place set apart for the respect and reverence of the holiest of holies, the real presence of Christ.

Since Communion is created in community, consumed in community, and lived in community, you will need to attend our Zoom Sunday service and wait until the proper point in liturgy at which time we will receive Communion together. Each Sunday I will consecrate more wafers which will again be picked up by you and held in your special home aumbry space until the next Sunday service.

If you don’t have a computer that’s okay. There was a time in our history that families gathered around the radio and listened. You can do that now, not by radio, but by phone. If you don’t have a computer, you will be given a special phone number to call with special login information. You will be able to call in and listen to the service and share in Communion. I will not mail out the Body of Christ, however if you are shut-in and unable to drive to the church to pick it up, we can arrange for it to be delivered to you.

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two Sundays on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82412364013?pwd=bkgwK0QwOXNYcGQzTHI4SFNmSWgvUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013

Password: 308693

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

If you need to call in and listen by phone, here is what you do:

Dial this phone number:

+1 669 900 6833

When prompted enter the

Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013

When prompted enter the

Password: 308693

Blessings, Kirk+