



December

**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

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

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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...



Stewardship Letter for 2020-2021

Dear St. Paul's,

When we set "Faith-Filled Generosity" as the theme for this year's stewardship campaign, it was pre-covid and none of us could have known what this year would be like. Tomorrow will mark 36 weeks, i.e., 9 months since we have met in person to worship as a faith community. Today, Washoe County set a new record for *single day* positive Covid cases at 817, with a nation total surpassing 12 million—an increase of more than 1 million in less than a week.

Since this unimaginable journey began, we have lost loved ones, family, and friends-- some to death and some to broken relationships. It has been harsh. We as a community and as the human race are overwhelmed with our common grief and at times have found ourselves feeling lost and alone. Oh my how different the holiday season will be. My family celebrating Thanksgiving with only those of us who live under the same roof will be a first. It will not be the same, but I will be just as grateful to look across the table as I have been in any other year.

I am truly grateful for what I have witnessed during "Covid-Tide". What I have witnessed and experienced is Faith-Filled Generosity. Though we have not gathered in our sacred space, our Faith-Filled Generosity allows us to gather online with all its oddities and imperfections. Our Faith-Filled Generosity has us checking up on one another and helping out when needed. Faith-Filled Generosity has kept Laundry Love and The Community Food Pantry thriving to minister to those in need, even with record numbers.

Our Faith-Filled Generosity has allowed those of us who need it to be fed with the Body of Christ on Sundays and to be the Body of Christ, a light to the world, during such darkness. My hope is that you can see it too, Faith-Filled Generosity in yourselves and in others. Yes, I could not be more grateful for your Faith-Filled Generosity because without it, I would not be nourished by the light you radiate upon me.

As a community, we will get through this and our faith will be stronger on the other side. As we push forward towards the other side, I want to thank you for your continued financial support to the ministries of St. Paul's. I pray that your Faith-Filled Generosity will not let up in the coming year, and that you consider making a financial pledge for 2021. This can be done by completing and returning the pledge card you received in the mail, or you can save a stamp and pledge online this year by going to www.StPaulsSparks.org and clicking on the "Links" tab.

Until we return once again to sharing life together face to face, I hold tightly to the words of two Christian saints, mystic Julian of Norwich who said, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well," and the late The Rev. Dr. Rhoda Swanner Montgomery who once convinced me to hang in there with the holy words of, "Yes, everything really will be okay, that's true. Sucks to get to okay sometimes, but okay is always on the horizon."

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirk" with a small cross-like mark above the 't'.

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff

Sunday 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.

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. 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).
2. Pledging allows Vestry to make a budget for the year ahead and plan for new and existing ministries at St. Paul's.
3. Save a stamp and make your pledge online.
[Click Here to fill out your pledge card.](#)
4. If you would like a paper pledge card sent to you, email Jon Mittelstadt, Stewardship Chair, at jon.mittel@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting God's work at St. Paul's!

Death of Craig Jones

Covid-19 has taken the life of parish member Craig Jones, brother of Jeannine Funk. We will celebrate Craig's life sometime in 2021. Please keep the Funk's in your prayers.

Death of Pat Williamson

We have just been notified that longtime parish member Pat Williamson died from **Covid-19** on October 14th. We celebrate her reunion with her husband Russ who died in 2017.

Covid at St. Paul's

We went a long time with just one member of St. Paul's having been infected with Covid-19. The current count is that we are up to 10 members who have or have had the virus. Some have been hit very hard and are struggling to regain

their health, which does include two deaths, while others were less effected.

The age of those infected have been across the board, from teenagers to the longtime retired. Not all want their diagnosis known, so I'll just say, pray for the whole lot of them.

Christmas Eve Worship: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us online for a special Christmas Eve service at **7:30 p.m.** on Thursday, December 24th. This service will be accessible on the Zoom link listed below.

The service will be filled with some of your favorite Christmas hymns as well as special music by our music staff. Don't miss the chance to hear the Christmas story in a new way and we ponder a variety of meditations, stories, poems, etc., written and offered by members of St. Paul's.

Though we won't be face to face, the service will certainly draw us deeper into a relationship with God incarnate, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child in the manger.

If you would like to receive Holy Communion during the Christmas service, please look under the "Online Worship" tab at www.StPaulsSparks.org for instructions.

We will be attempting to record the Christmas Eve service. If successful, we will rebroadcast it on Facebook and YouTube Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m.

Monthly Update:

When Will We Open?

The increase in positive Covid-19 cases in Washoe County has triggered the diocese to revoke our permission to open up to in person worship.

Please do your part to prevent the spread so that we will be able to open up sometime in 2021.

2020 RECIPES

These days many of us are cooking more at home or even just beginning to cook. We are starting a collection of favorite recipes, especially recipes found and used in 2020. This is a time when we are eating and cooking at home much more than in the past. If you have a recipe you would like to share send it to me, djmargerum@gmail.com

Here is the first recipe from Pat Purkey-Entwistle:

SHERRIED SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE (THE ADULT VERSION)

8 medium sweet potatoes (or 3 18-oz. canned)
Dash plus ½ teaspoon salt
1 cup dark brown sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon grated orange peel
1 cup orange juice
½ cup raisins (or cranberries)
6 tablespoon butter
½ cup dry sherry
¼ cup chopped pecans (or walnuts)

Peel and cook potatoes in salted water until just tender; drain. Cut lengthwise into ½-in. thick slices. Arrange potatoes in 13" x 9" white or clear baking dish. Sprinkle with a dash of salt.

In a saucepan, combine brown sugar, cornstarch and rest of salt. Blend in orange peel and orange juice; add raisins. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly. Add butter, sherry and pecans, stirring until butter is melted; pour over potatoes. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes, basting occasionally. Serves 8.

Enjoy your new cooking and eating lifestyle.
Donna Margerum

Program on Racism

I am writing to St. Paul's to ask for those members who want to journey together in a program on Racism called Sacred Ground. This

experience is part of The Episcopal Church's "Becoming Sacred Community", the long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation and justice. Currently there are about 700 Episcopal Churches and around 1300 Sacred Ground circles addressing the issue of racism through this program.

This 10 session "circle" is primarily for white people to come to understand our roll and history in racism in ourselves, and our country. We are planning on meeting twice a month depending on St Paul's and Fr Kirk's schedule, and the discussion materials depth. We are going to meet at 12:00 to 1:30 starting on December 6th. We would like a diverse circle made up of about 14 individuals from new to The Episcopal Church or long timers and those who are willing to tackle intense material. You will need to access Zoom, and be able to watch videos at home. Two books will be used as our source documents with many other readings provided.

This will be a challenging journey but I hope worthwhile. Please contact Deacon Mike for additional information and to sign up. mgoodmarge@gmail.com (775) 229-2695.

Special Christmas Offering

Are you at home isolated over the holidays? You know how lonely that is. What about those who don't have a home, or may about to be homeless. St Paul's outreach ministry asks us all to donate a little extra this year to a "homeless discretionary fund". The traditional Christmas open plate offerings have gone ½ to the general fund and ½ to an outreach gift outside of the Church. We are asking that this special donation outside the church be designated for the Clergy discretionary fund to be used for homeless related requests. Jesus was born in a stable homeless and helpless. Please remember others who do not have a pillow this Christmas.

Thank you.

Deacon Mike Margerum, member of the outreach ministry.