



February

**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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



I want to begin by saying thank you for the two Sundays I had off last month. I am especially grateful to Randy and Sandy Siever for leading Morning Prayer, for Tim Miller wrangling the Zoom, and for Deacon Mike and Susan Palwick for preaching while I was recharging.

The year we face is hopeful and I am blessed to be able to continue to travel through it with you. The Vestry will have a retreat in a couple weeks to explore our priorities for 2021, but here are some things to expect as we move forward.

Expect to be asked at some point this year how you are feeling called to serve God and the Church and what might that look like at St. Paul's?

When the weather is nice, expect to have some opportunities to worship together, outside in our newly repaired and remodeled memorial garden.

When we do return, expect to still be socially distancing and wearing a mask....I know, that stinks, but I want you to expect it.

Expect our community to have changed. There will be some familiar faces who will not return when we open back up and there will be new faces who have been waiting patiently to join a worshipping community that welcomes all people and believes in the belonging nature of the Gospel. With each missing face and each new face, communities change. We will simultaneously mourn the loss and celebrate the additions.

Expect more building improvements, which will include a capital campaign to pay for the new roof and a new parking lot. Maybe tithe a portion

of your stimulus check, every dollar counts for this massive project.

Expect the best that each of us has to offer because we all deserve such goodness.

Expect the Holy Spirit to show up, she always does.

I miss you.

Monthly Update: When Will We Open?

The Diocese still has the churches in Washoe County on lockdown. After they begin allowing in person worship, Fr. Kirk will evaluate the local situation and then go from there. Until then, wear your mask, continue to follow proper social distancing guidelines, and get the vaccine when you are offered it.

Ash Wednesday: February 17th 6:00 p.m. on Zoom

Please join us on Zoom for Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:00 p.m. on February 17th. The links for Zoom and the bulletin will be under the online worship tab at www.StPaulsSparks.org. If you would like to have **Communion** during this service, contact Robin at Office@StPaulsSparks.org or call 775-358-4474.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday?

The question as to if we will have ashes on Ash Wednesday is a hot topic amongst some of our members.

Bishop Jim has said this: "The Ash Wednesday liturgy in The Book of Common Prayer says, *"If ashes are to be imposed..."* This means that the Ash Wednesday service does not require the imposition of ashes and is a valid invitation into the season of Lent with or without them. He also

said that if there are members of our parishes who insist they need ashes, then he is leaving it up to the clergy to figure out how to get them ashes, however, we can not put anyone at risk.

So, with that said, the clergy of St. Paul's will not be imposing ashes on foreheads this year. If you are one who absolutely needs ashes, you can contact Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org, 775-358-4474, and request ashes that will be put into a small plastic baggie for you to take home for you to impose them on yourself.

Online Lenten Class (7 weeks) Wednesdays February 24th to April 7th 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Life Transformed: The Way of Love in Lent
Join Fr. Kirk on Zoom for this special Lenten journey, where each week we will turn, learn, and pray our way through the desert, toward resurrection life with Jesus.
To join the class email
Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

2021 Vestry Members

Erin Anderson
*Margaret Bouzek, Sr. Warden
*Mike Entwistle
John Hannah
*Tim Miller, Jr. Warden
Tia Mittelstadt
*(Elected during the 2021 annual meeting)

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Kathie Dixon
Richard Dixon
Barbara Monroy
Deb Stiver

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.

Funding the Mission



If you missed the annual meeting in January, I reported that we had a very good year considering we are in the midst of a pandemic and in person worship has been replaced by zoom.

In summary, I reported that our receipts, both pledged and unpledged remained strong throughout the year. Expenses were slightly below budget for the year. In the spring of 2020, we applied for and were granted a \$30,300 loan from the federal government's paycheck protection program (PPP). Per their rules, we used these funds to continue to pay our staff, and consequently we are not required to pay it back. The added PPP monies gave us an operating surplus of \$40,801 for 2020. This amount has been added to our rainy-day savings fund which now totals over \$78,000.

I concluded my 2020 report by noting that we continued our practice of diverting over \$10,000 of our annual receipts into savings funds specifically designated to repair future major building problems and fund rector education.

In summary, 2020, although not normal in most respects, was the fourth year in a row we ran an operating surplus, and our finances remain on a firm foundation.

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.

UTO

Do you remember the parable of "The Widow's Mite"? Well, now we have the chance again to make a difference with our own "mite boxes".

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a national ministry of the Episcopal Church. It provides much-needed grants for schools, homeless shelters, clinics, libraries, family counseling and much more; UTO is involved, not only in our church, but in our world!

We are all encouraged to recognize our blessings as we make a thank offering and drop a coin into our blue mite boxes.

Beginning Monday, February 8, we will have UTO offering envelopes and Blue Mite Boxes available to give you when you pick up your Communion wafers, or if you stop into the church. Though we will take filled UTO envelopes and boxes anytime, we will have a special collection day later in the year.

We want to thank Jori Trimbell for being our UTO coordinator. If you have questions, please contact her at easteregg103@gmail.com.

Memorial Garden

Before:



After:

