



The Epistle

2021

August

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Rick Millsap, Priest

Sunday Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays

In-Person and on Zoom

Masks are now required for all attending the in house services.

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays on Facebook*

*(8:00 p.m. has taken the summer off)

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

If you would like Holy Communion for Zoom worship, please call the church 775-358-4474.

Contents

From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk.....	1
Welcome Back to Indoor Worship! ...	2
Sr. Warden Report.....	2
North Entry Project: Your Help is Needed.....	2
New Shoes for School! by The Rev. Rick Millsap	3
Food Pantry Volunteers Needed	3
The Community Food Pantry	3
Empty Bowls 2021.....	4
Church School Opens Soon	4
Acolyte Ministry needs you!.....	4
Prayers and Squares.....	5
School Supply Drive	5
Traditional Music.....	5
Online Worship	5
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks..	6
Funding the Mission July 2021	6



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

Sabbatical Time Away

Yep, he is still on Sabbatical!
Many prayers for the Woodliff Family. Another month & we will

welcome him back.

Don't forget

Your Pledge

this Summer!

Welcome Back to Indoor Worship!



We will ease into coming back together with a modified summer schedule (June-August). We will offer a combined 10:00 a.m. Rite II service with blended music from the praise and traditional music teams. We will continue to broadcast the service on Zoom for those of you who are not ready or able to return in person. Adjustments to this schedule may happen, but only if the need arises. After Labor Day, we are planning to return to our regular Sunday schedule (including a return of the choir at the 11:00.)

Will there be any restrictions? Yes, as you probably already know that the Governor now requires masks to be worn by everyone when you are inside. This applies to our Sunday service. If you do not have a mask, one will be available at the door.

We will continue to only offer bread at Communion and there will not be any Sunday school until September. We will have childcare coverage though. We will have an after service social time in the garden.

Sr. Warden Report

Dear Friends,

July has certainly been a busy and exciting month.

We were fortunate to welcome the Bishop Candidates for a brief Q&A session followed

by a lovely Evensong. My thanks to all who helped bring the event together.

There are a couple events to put on your calendar:

July 31: Adam and Alyssa Teachout and friends Concert at the church. Tickets are available on Eventbrite & at the door.

September 25:

Empty Bowls, check out the article on page four. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

November 5: Dorothy Papadakos will be performing Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde on Trinity Cathedral's organ as a fundraiser for St. Paul's building projects. Details will be available in August.

The Vestry is planning to move forward on the first of the building improvement projects this fall. We are working with a contractor to gather the bids. We are also pursuing the completion of the North church entrance with pavers this fall as well. We appreciate your patience and support of these projects. Look for more information later this summer.

Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

North Entry Project: Your Help is Needed

The North Entry of the church will see a big improvement in the fall of 2021 when new pavers and plants will be installed. The pavers will match those in the Garden. This project is needed because currently, the poor drainage in the area creates pooling of water, water damage, and in winter, ice forms near the door creating a slipping hazard. This update and beautification project will not only solve the drainage and safety problems but will make the front door area appear more inviting for both parishioners and visitors.

A donor has generously committed to paying half of the \$14,000 needed to complete the project and has asked for parishioners to match their \$7,000 donation. Your help is needed, and any amount is welcome and appreciated.

To support this project, please send your gift to St. Paul's marked as "North Entry Project." Thank you for helping us make this much needed improvement to our north entry!



New Shoes for School! by The Rev. Rick Millsap

I am old enough to remember my dad and mom driving their old white Chevy station wagon into Reno from Sparks at the end of summer to buy shoes and clothes for school. That was back when it was still a drive into Reno. Now, of course, we're one contiguous city. I seem to remember I would get one pair of black church shoes and one pair of school shoes. Along with new pants and shirts, it was pretty exciting. It was misery having to wait until the first day of the new school year to wear them. The thing that excited me the most was when we got to go buy new pencils, paper, and binders! (Yeah, I was kind of a nerd.)



THE OLD CHEVY II



The excitement of those going-back-to-school rituals are in the rearview mirror for many of us. But don't you still get a charge out of the turning of the seasons and a new school year beginning? We may be long out of school, but

part of staying young is to keep learning and trying new things.

This fall, consider taking on a new spiritual discipline such as regular Morning or Evening Prayer (see the Book of Common Prayer pp. 75–115), or you might try ordering a new book about Christian spirituality (I have recommendations!) Now, if you're really ambitious, how about finding a ministry here are St. Paul's that calls you? The surest sign of a call is a feeling of joy! So look through all of the activities in The Epistle for this month, and see if you don't see a ministry that seems to be reaching out to your heart. It may be the Food Pantry, helping Altar Guild, or being a Reader or an acolyte.

As the world turns, and the days become shorter, you can recapture that excitement of new beginnings this school year! Whether 8 or 80, there is something to stretch your mind and your soul here at St. Paul's!

Rick Millsap +
Assisting Priest

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed **The pantry needs help! Are you able?**

Tuesday 12:00 to 2:00

Bringing in food from the delivery truck and stocking the shelves.

Wednesday 9:00 to 12:00

Helping distribute food.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to volunteer, email TCFPVolunteers@gmail.com

The Community Food Pantry

COVID moved our distribution to a drive-thru we can serve more efficiently. Rain or Shine, Blistering Hot or Freezing Cold, our volunteers serve this community with dignity and respect. So far, these dedicated volunteers have helped 15,660 people, this is 1020 more people over the same time last year. We are on pace to feed more than 30,000 people this year. Like most of us, our fixed clients are

struggling to find their recovery in these wearisome times.

Our mobile program serving Seniors 60+ is now running on Saturdays and Tuesdays, serving three additional sites. COVID was and continues to be a challenging time for this population. The isolation brings this population additional stress. We recently had a donation of 4 Teddy Bears, and they were handed out to the seniors. John, the receipt of one of the bears, was so grateful. He is a cancer patient and said that with this bear, he will always have a companion. We were happy that we could brighten his day.

If you would like to volunteer, we have plenty of opportunities, email tcfpvolunteers@gmail.com and we will be happy to send you some information. Or you can email or call me anytime. Bmonroy0216@gmail.com or 775-829-8399/775-742-4856

Thank you for your support of The Community Food Pantry.

Empty Bowls 2021

Empty Bowls 2021 Year 12! We will be back in person for this event, but it will also be virtual so you can come and enjoy a meal, bid on bowls, and raffle and silent auction items, or partake virtually and still support the Community Food Pantry.



When: Saturday September 25, 2021 5-8pm

Where: Boys and Girls Club
1300 Foster Drive, Reno

Tickets: \$45 No tickets are sold at the door,
Follow this link to purchase tickets
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empty-bowls-2021-tickets-161407426959>

Bowls can be painted until September 10, 2021 @The Playful Potter, 1351 E Prater Way #109, Sparks Nevada (775-356-5811.) Studio hours are:

Wednesday - Friday: 1:00pm-7:00pm

Saturday: 11:00pm-7:00pm

Sunday: 11:00pm-6:00pm

Help us meet our goal of **125** bowls.

Cost to Paint a bowl \$11 (no studio fee)
Please continue to watch the Epistle and Bulletins for further announcements.
Thank you for supporting The Community Food Pantry

Barbara Monroy
bmonroy0216@gmail.com
www.thecommunityfoodpantryrenosparks.com
775-829-8399/775-742-4856



Church School Opens Soon Greetings to my St. Paul's Family!

In order for us to make plans for classes this year, we need to have parents of children from Kindergarten age to 6th grade fill out a registration form. This form will be available in paper form in the narthex or on the St. Paul's website (stpaulssparks.org) under *Programs > Sunday School*. Once you register your children, please make every effort to bring them regularly so they are also getting their lessons on a regular basis. We know that other activities sometimes take precedence. I have had some parents tell me that their kids have missed church school this last year and that makes our lesson planning each week all worthwhile!

Thank you for sharing your children with us and we hope to see you all in September!

In Christ's Love,
Nancy

Acolyte Ministry needs you!

When I started coming to St. Paul's in 2005, I found a great home for my spirituality to grow. My son was asking questions, as he had started parochial school, I had made a trip to Israel, and I was ready. I found my home.

Through the years I have worn many hats in differing ministries within St. Paul's and have grown and learned so much. Now I find myself starting a new role in one of the ministries that found a few years ago that filled a calling. I have moved into the role of Acolyte Master. I love assisting at the altar and performing those duties. I also have an appreciation for youth and have been a mentor in various organizations for many years. Positive attitude mixed with listening, and willingness to learn have done me well in many leadership roles and should do me well here.



Now that we are opening up again, we have a need for more acolytes, torch bearers and crucifers. I envision a ministry of family, youth and adult working together to assist with service at the altar in St. Paul's. I will be working at growing this ministry back up after a long sleep due to Covid. If you feel a calling, contact me. If you are unsure about your skills, no worries we train and we make mistakes and we have fun doing it!

John Hannah jhannah.church@mymail775.net

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares are again meeting in person! We meet on the fourth Saturday at 9 a.m. to noon in the Parish Hall. If you would like to participate in this ministry please come join us.

School Supply Drive



Daughters of the King are sponsoring a School Supply Drive! Please bring school supplies for Robert Mitchell School and place them in the barrel in the narthex. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please indicate that on the memo of your check

and we will purchase the supplies. Many thanks for your continued support of the school.

Traditional Music

Many years ago, somebody thought of building an instrument consisting of hundreds, even thousands, of metal and wooden pipes that would each make a unique sound when air was passed through them. By combining all of these pipes in various configurations, somehow they produce a noise that has now become the quintessential sound of church. You rarely, if ever, hear the sound of the pipe organ outside of a church setting, and so far many it is a comforting reminder of their days growing up in a warm, welcoming environment (such as St. Paul's). The ministry of traditional music in church is, well, traditional. Hymns are the folk songs of liturgy: familiar tunes that can be heard all around the world, reminding people that, no matter where they are, there is commonality amongst all of us. Sadly, at this current time, it isn't possible to elevate the music with the angelic voices of the choir. However, those voices are still present in the congregation, and alongside the Praise Team and the Teachout's extraordinary musical abilities, Sunday morning worship is a truly unifying, spiritual experience.

Online Worship

Possibly the newest ministry at St. Paul's, broadcasting the services online was a critical part of the continuation of the church while we were sequestered at home. Today, it continues to provide a spiritual lifeline to those who can not attend in-person for health, geographic, or myriad other reasons. Thanks to Fr. Kirk's love of technology, the experience of online worship at St. Paul's is one of the more advanced in the area, allowing those who are sitting at home to feel like they are part of the worship, amongst the congregation. New to all of us, improvements continue to be made to enhance this form of outreach so that, on Sunday morning, we can extend the great works of all

the ministries at St. Paul's, because a church is more than just a building.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sparks Funding the Mission July 2021

Operating receipts for the 2nd quarter totaled \$83,960 and operating expenses totaled \$68,396. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$15,564 which beat the budget's predicted deficit of \$3,838 by \$19,402. This second quarter surplus combined with a similar positive result in the first quarter has given us a \$30,174 surplus for the first six months of 2021. It is typical in the first two quarters for us to run a surplus because several parishioners give their entire yearly pledge in the first half of the year. I try to incorporate this pattern in the budget projections, but higher than expected giving along with some expense savings greatly exceeded these budget adjustments. Considering that the pandemic was going strong through most of these six months, our results are exceptional compared to many churches.

As we move through the next two quarters, I expect this cumulative surplus to shrink as our expenses should exceed receipts. However, I am reasonably confident that we will still end the year with a significant surplus and beat the budget's prediction of a \$1,400 deficit.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity and is posted in the narthex.

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.

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

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