



September

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.

Don't forget
Your Pledge
this Summer!

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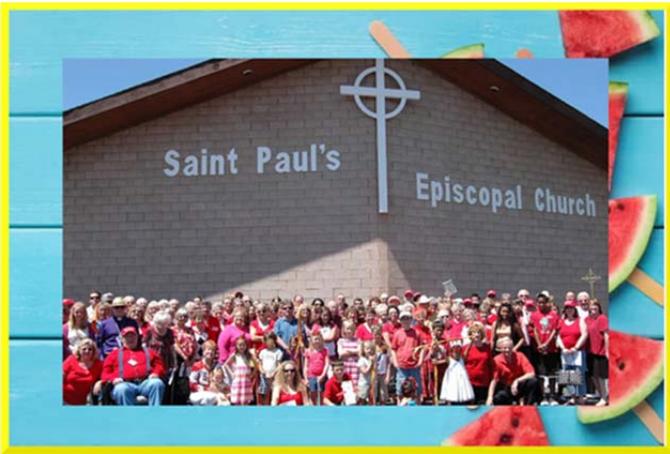
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From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...

We will be welcoming Fr. Kirk back at the beginning of September! We have missed him and hope that he has felt our love and prayers in his journey during his Sabbatical.

We pray for our Indoor Worship!



Our goal is to continue with in-house services and offer our 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. Obviously with the new Delta variant and the increase of COVID cases, we have to continue to adjust our requirements for in-house services in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Right now, we require masks to be worn at all times while in the building. Mask are available at the door in the event that you do not have one. The Diocese requires us to keep a list of people's names and contact information from all services. Please sign the sheets that are on the tall tables at each entrance to the Narthex. We will continue to only offer bread at Communion and it will be delivered to you in your seats. The pews have been sectioned off to abide by the Diocese social distancing requirements. The offering plate will not be passed but stationed at the back of the church toward the exits and contributions can be deposited there upon leaving the service.

We are going to start Sunday School for those that have enrolled thus far on September 12th. We do have childcare coverage and hope that people with children start to come back to church since school has started again. They are working on getting the youth group up and running. It's our hope that the kids and young adults join us on Sundays. We enjoy seeing all of you.

Sr. Warden Report

Dear Friends,
Happy September to everyone!

I am looking forward to the new starts that the fall brings to us. I love the change of seasons and more especially this year the hope to the end of fire season.

The Vestry has been working on several projects to keep us and our church safe. We have put in place the new restrictions the Diocese has sent to us to be safe and healthy during the COVID resurgence. I do encourage you to get vaccinated and follow the CDC guidelines. It is frustrating to have to take a step back but one day soon we will be moving forward at our usual pace.

The North Entrance project is scheduled to begin around the first of November. We are anticipating the bids for the Heating and Air Conditioning and Roof projects and have our fingers crossed that we can have the project underway in October.

We also are looking forward to having Fr. Kirk back from his sabbatical. Please understand that it will take him some time to get through the messages and correspondence that have accumulated during his absence.

I want to thank Rev. Rick Millsap for his work with us over the summer. We were truly blessed to have him with us.

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!



How can it be?!

by The Rev. Rick Millsap

Is it possible that these three months have gone by so quickly? Although I arrived under sad circumstances, it has been a true joy to serve with you!

Not enough can be said about all the good done here at St. Paul's. Your Food Pantry feeds hundreds of people every week; It is the volunteers from St. Paul's that make that possible. Our hearts go out the sick and the suffering through the Prayer Quilt Ministry. Your generosity was amazing in the school supply collection for Robert Mitchell Elementary School. And through it all, our members of the Daughters of the King were praying for you and for the whole Church.

It is the "unofficial ministries" taking place here that have touched me very deeply. More than once I found out one of our flock was in the hospital because our parishioners cared about them and were checking up on them. There are those of you who have taken on the ministry of giving people a ride to church every Sunday. There are also a number of you who help those less able go shopping for groceries and other needs. None of these are ministries listed on our website, but you folks do not wait for official ministries, you just step up when you see a need.

It is dangerous to thank people for fear you will forget someone, but I cannot leave without mentioning some special people:

None of my service these last three months would have been possible without the tireless work and counsel of your Senior Warden, Margaret Bouzek. I have known her for many years, but getting to work closely with her for the last three months has made me appreciate what an incredible leader and saint she is.

My thanks also goes to our church secretary, Robin, whose work and dedication to St. Paul's and its people go so far beyond the mere title of "secretary." She is a hidden gift in plain sight.

I am so appreciative of your fine vestry who met regularly to guide our church and make decisions. Their support was invaluable.

The fine quality of our music and the wonderful evensong we held for the Bishop candidates would not have been possible without Ben, Alissa, Adam, and the Praise Team.

Finally, the people I wish to thank most are you, the good people of St. Paul's. I am so grateful you invited me to join you on your journey these last three months. Your support and kindness during this difficult time, with all of the virus safety precautions and having your rector on sabbatical, have been a true blessing to me.

While my time as an assisting priest here is over, I do not plan to disappear. I'll soon wander back. You will soon find me worshiping and working with all of you once again to see if we can't bring just a bit more of God's Kingdom into our little corner of the world.

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

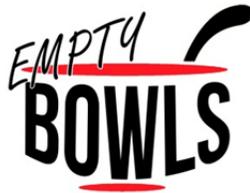
We cannot be more thankful for our Pantry volunteers however we can ALWAYS use more help. This ministry has grown so much and our need to have helpers is one of our biggest issues. Feeding the needy cannot be done without help from all of our community and those willing to volunteer. Donating your time is just as important as donating food.

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-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empty-bowls-2021-tickets-161407426959)

[bowls-2021-tickets-161407426959](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

Greetings to Parents (and Grandparents) of K-6th Grade Children!

We will be starting church school on Sunday, September 12th, and we are looking

forward to seeing the children again after a long 18 months! We will have fun lessons and crafts planned and we would love to have your children involved in the activities, so parents bring your kids, and grandparents bring your grandchildren! We feel that learning about Christianity starts with Sunday school and is a very important step to becoming a lifelong follower of Christ and staying with the church! That being said, we still need your Sunday school registration forms. These are important so we know the kids allergies and can contact you immediately if there is a problem. This form can be found in paper form in the narthex or on the St. Paul's website at :

<http://stpaulssparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sunday-School-Registration-Form.pdf>

Please have your children wear their masks to class and we will see you all soon.

Thank you! 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 would like to thank all of you that have donated to the School Supply Drive for the students of Robert Mitchell Elementary. Several of you have donated money and we will contact the school to determine their most important needs and shop for those items. All of the donated supplies will be put to great use and are very much needed. Staff and students

of Robert Mitchell are so very thankful for your continued support. Thank you all!

A Blessing for School Supplies

by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller a Lutheran pastor

Lord, we send our children into the world another school year in our midst filled with learning and playing offering opportunities for challenge and growth.

We entrust our children to others we open our hearts to the unknown we hope and trust in your goodness that your love will meet us throughout our days.

Bless these pencils to write words of hope and love.

Bless these erasers as they remind us what it is to forgive and be forgiven.

Bless these papers and notebooks to be filled with stories, dreams, and unlimited potential.

Bless the lunchboxes and water bottles to nourish and sustain, to give energy and life.

Bless these markers and crayons to bring beauty and creativity to the world.

In the end, bless not only these items but the hands that hold them, the bodies that carry them and the children whose hearts and minds will be shaped all through your love.

Amen.

Episcopal Women of NV Annual Tea

September 18th at 1:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Tea Sandwiches

Scones

Lemon Curd

Fruit Kebabs

Eclairs

Tea

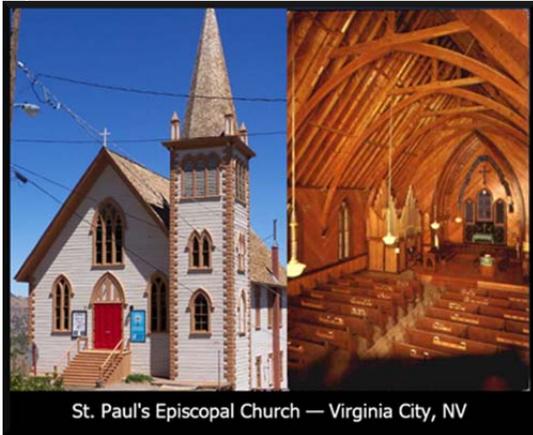
Cost: \$25 per person payable at the door.

Davidson's Tea is providing the tea for the event and will share with us the many aspects of tea from growing to packaging.

Please contact Connie Skidmore at cwskid@att.net to make a reservation.

The Glory of a Church

by Tia and Jon Mittelstadt

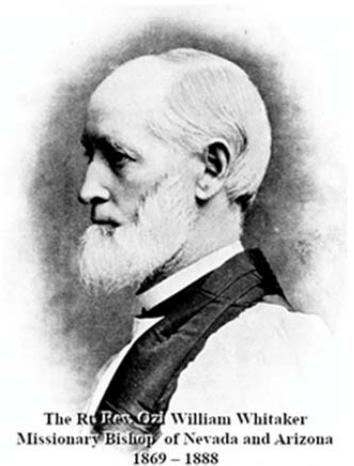


St. Paul's Episcopal Church — Virginia City, NV

Is a church a place or is it people? In English, we sometimes refer to the "church" as a building, but in the New Testament every time the Greek word for church (ekklesia) is used, it always refers to a people, not to a building. Thus, if a church building is destroyed, the church lives on as long as the congregation continues to be the body of Christ in the world. Unfortunately and tragically, this is what happened in Virginia City, NV in 1875.

Almost 150 years ago, a horrible fire in Virginia City, driven by strong winds, destroyed two-thirds of the buildings in Virginia City - more than 2,000 structures. Among the buildings destroyed were St. Paul the Prospector Episcopal Church and the rectory where Episcopal Missionary Bishop Ozi Whitaker and his wife lived. After the fire, Bishop Whitaker was successful at raising funds for a new building, with donations coming from both the West Coast and the East Coast, and a little over a year after the fire, St. Paul the Prospector Church was rebuilt. The congregation met for worship for the first time in their new building in December, 1876. That day, Bishop Whitaker preached an inspiring sermon about the glory of a church. His sermon was later published in the western newspaper, "The Territorial Enterprise". Here are a few excerpts from Bishop Whitaker's 1876 sermon...

"As we are assembled here today for the first time in these sacred courts, for the worship of Almighty God, what more fitting prayer can we offer than that the glory of this latter house may be greater than the former, and that in this place the Lord our God may give us peace! What is the true glory of a church? Not stately architecture; not a gorgeous and magnificent building. There may be places and times when such structures are called for and should be built. But anything of that character would be out of place here and now. The true glory of a church is that it serves as a means of drawing men (and women) to God; making them ashamed of sin and meanness...making them realize their greatness as Children of God; and leading them to live as...(Children of God). As a church and congregation we have that work to do. We have that opportunity. God has given us the means. By using (those means) faithfully we shall honor God and serve men. We may live to see the true glory of this (new) house greater than the former."



The Rt. Rev. Ozi William Whitaker
Missionary Bishop of Nevada and Arizona
1869 - 1888

Bishop Whitaker's sermon about the glory of a church called the congregation in Virginia City to live as Children of God. Here at St. Paul's, Sparks, 25 miles away from Virginia City and 146 years later, may WE also live in love as Children of God. With God's help, we will. Amen.

For more of Bishop Whitaker's story, a great book is "Bishop on Horseback, The Journey of Ozi William Whitaker" by Karen Wilkes.

Episcopal Relief & Development

Forest Fires! Earthquake in Haiti! Afghanistan Crisis! What Can We Do?!

It can feel overwhelming when we watch the evening news: Forest fires, another earthquake in the poor country of Haiti, and now the crisis in Afghanistan. Christians throughout the world have always had a knack for finding a way to help, even when things feel overwhelming. The Episcopal Church has a number of active ministries through which you can make a difference!

None of us can do everything, but see if one or more of the suggestions below calls to you...



Forest Fires

Massive wildfires out west are now threatening several more towns and thousands of people may lose power to prevent more fires as winds pick up across the region. The American Red Cross has been helping since the onset of these latest fires and will continue to support the tens of thousands of people across multiple states forced from their homes.

Go to the following link to find out more about what you can do through The Red Cross >
<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/gold-country.html>



The Earthquake in Haiti

Episcopal Relief & Development is in close

contact with long-term development partners in Haiti after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the country on Saturday, August 14, 2021. The

earthquake killed over a thousand people, caused structures to collapse and triggered landslides and flooding in the western part of the nation.

Go to the following link to help the people of Haiti through Episcopal Relief and Development >
<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-resources/press-releases/2021-press-releases-press-releases/supporting-partners-in-haiti-after-the-august-2021-earthquake/>

Afghanistan Crisis



Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement and migration ministry of The Episcopal Church, is currently working in partnership with the U.S. government to assist Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders with resettlement and direct services through a network of 12 affiliates across the U.S.

St. Paul's has worked with the Northern Nevada International Center at UNR to help with refugee resettlement here in the Reno-Sparks area in the past. We will keep you updated as we learn more about what we can do locally.

We encourage you to also support Episcopal Migration Ministries as a vital way to help with funding and perhaps locating local housing resources.

Go to the following link to learn how you can support our Afghan allies through Episcopal Migration Ministries >
<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/afghan-allies/>

You can also contact Congress to urge their support of our Afghan allies. Ideas for how to make that contact can be found here > <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/?vvsrsrc=%2fcampaigns%2f87648%2fresponond>



A Prayer for This Time of Epidemic

Although Jesus's disciples knew the traditional prayers of the Jewish faith from a young age, in Luke 11, they still recognized that in times of dramatic change, such as during Jesus's ministry, they needed to learn a new way. And so they said, "Teach us to pray."

The Covid-19 virus has devastated our country and the world. It sometimes is hard to form words of prayer around the enormity of what we have experienced. A friend of mine, Doug Blanchard, an Episcopalian, artist, and college professor in New York, offers these words for us.

— Rev. Rick+

A Prayer for This Time of Epidemic
by Doug Blanchard

I pray for those at home or in the hospital suffering from this epidemic.

I pray for the many doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers who look after the sick and their families. May they be protected in their work, and may their work be recognized and justly compensated.

I pray for those who died of Covid and those they left behind, who still love them and mourn

for them alone and unacknowledged.

I pray for those tasked with burying the dead during the pandemic. May they accomplish their difficult work of keeping the bereaved connected with their loved ones and honoring their wishes as best as possible.

I pray for all essential workers tasked with keeping the world working and making it safe for us all. May the necessity and dignity of their work be recognized and may they be justly compensated for their necessary labors.

I pray for those many who are in danger of losing their homes because of the pandemic.

I pray for those whose lives were upended and changed by illness, bereavement, and loss of home and livelihood.

I pray for those who remain vulnerable to the disease.

I pray for those who resist getting the vaccine and wearing a mask. May God turn their hearts to love and care for their neighbors, their families, and themselves in the face of this peril.

"O Almighty and merciful God, with whom are the issues of life and death: Grant us, we beseech thee, help and deliverance in this time of grievous sickness and mortality, and sanctify to us this affliction, that in our sore distress we may turn our hearts unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen." (1929 Scottish BCP, 42).



Craft Fair!

Daughters of the King are sponsoring a Craft Fair on **November 13th** in the parish hall. We encourage those

who do crafts such as woodworking, crochet/knit items, quilted/sewn items, general craft items, or baked goods, and would be interested in participating to contact Margaret Bouzek or Connie Patterson. Margaret.bouzek@gmail.com or cp4675@att.net

Cost per table is \$25, so don't wait, don't hesitate. Table space is limited.

For you shoppers, come and finish your seasonal shopping and find that perfect gift for someone special or a find a treat for yourself. Everyone loves hand-made, hand-crafted goodies!

Traditional Music

Traditionally, music in churches is a congregational effort. Everyone joins together to sing verses ancient and modern, with the organ or with the band, and it's a great feeling of collective affirmation. However, these are not traditional times, and so the music has had to be rather untraditional as well. We are temporarily requesting the congregation does not sing along with the hymns and service music. Instead, while the band plays and Adam sings, we ask the congregation to use this time to reflect on the words of the hymns, the way the music moves you, and possibly whether you remembered to switch the oven off or not. It's not an easy request, especially for Episcopalians, but hopefully it won't be for long, and while it is in effect you may find something in the music you never noticed before.

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

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