



October

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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Sunday Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays

In-Person and on Zoom

Masks are required for all attending the in-person services.

Worship 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.

From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk... Why I Chose to Get the Covid-19 Vaccine and Why I'm Glad I Did.



A friend I have known my whole life is currently in an Oklahoma ICU bed with Covid-19. I do not know why he chose not to get vaccinated, but it was his choice

which is having consequences. My friend is a tradesman who owns his own business, and his family is left without an income and the bills are stacking up. His wife has put out a plea seeking donations to help pay their debts. My friend is a good man. My heart hurts for him and his family.

When I got vaccinated, I did not think about the "what ifs" surrounding the possibilities of me not being able to provide for my family if I got Covid-19. I choose to get vaccinated because of the love I have for my family, my church family, and my neighbors. The thought of me being contagious and being the source of someone's life changing illness or life ending illness was more than I could handle. I got vaccinated out of my love for others.

When I was on sabbatical, Tricia and I went on a scuba diving trip to Roatan, Honduras. On day three of this trip my ears would not clear the pressure as I descended on dives. This was odd for me; my ears never give me trouble when I dive. From that point, other symptoms began to appear. My nose started running and I had a mild headache. For a day I had a sore throat, and then I started a cough which lasted three weeks.

I relate my symptoms to that of a cold or allergies. I did not "feel bad". I was just annoyed by my ears keeping me from descending or making me end dives early. My nose stopped running and my ears cleared enough to allow me to dive again. I am grateful I was there two weeks which allowed me to do what I love...to experience God in creation under the waterline.

When I returned home, I went to urgent care for my cough. I laid out the timeline of my symptoms for the doctor. He told me there was no reason to test me, but he was confident that I had experienced the breakthrough Delta variant of Covid-19. He told me that the vaccine did exactly what it was designed to do. It triggered my antibodies to respond with a vengeance.

It was this quick and hard response of my antibodies that kept me from becoming really sick. It was the vaccine that kept me out of a Honduran hospital, and maybe even a Honduran ICU bed. The doctor said that I would have likely only tested positive and been contagious for a few days because my antibodies triggered by the vaccine were primed and ready to fight.

It was then that I was grateful that I followed the rules established by the dive resort, unlike the two people sitting next to me on the flight. I wore my mask while I was indoors unless I was actively eating or drinking. These rules didn't lessen my vacation, but in retrospect, saved it, or at least preserved the memories, keeping them positive, knowing I protected others when I didn't know I was contagious.

I am grateful for the scientists who created the vaccine and grateful for those who believe in it enough to follow the safety guidelines.

I am also grateful to have lifelong friends, even if we disagree about the choices we make in our lives. For now, I continue to pray for him, his family, and that others will gain knowledge and wisdom from each of our stories.

Kirk⁺

Sr. Warden Report

October always catches me by surprise. One day it is summer and the next fall has arrived.

We have several activities going on this fall.

First, the North Entry Project is planned to begin in November. We want to thank everyone for their generous donations to complete the project.

Second, we are finalizing the bids for the Heating, Air Conditioning and Roof project. We are not sure if we will be able to do the project yet this year. If not, we will begin as soon as the weather allows in the spring.

The Diocesan Convention will be held via Zoom on October 8th. Please pray for the election of our new bishop.

We are blessed by your participation in worship either in person or on zoom.

Margaret Bouzek
Senior Warden

Craft Fair!



Daughters of the King are sponsoring a Craft Fair at the church on **November 13th** in the parish hall. We encourage those who do crafts such as woodworking, crochet/knit/woven items, quilted/sewn items, general craft items, or baked goods, and would be interested in participating to contact Connie Patterson at cp4675@att.net or Connie Swain at swain.Connie@jobcorps.org.

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!

The Daughters of the King meet on the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 in the choir room. Interested women are invited to attend.

Drive Thru Pet Blessing: October 2nd



If you would like your beloved pet blessed this year, stop by the church for the annual pet blessing on Saturday morning, October 2nd, between 10:00 and

12:00. This year blessings will be done in a drive thru manner while keeping you animals in the car.

"In Memory of" Memorial Service

There are often times when we are unable to attend the funeral or memorial service of a friend or family member. There are also times when there is not a public service at all. When we are unable to attend such a service, we may struggle to find a sense of closure, or allow ourselves to begin the healing process.

On **Wednesday, Nov 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** we will have an "In Memory of" memorial service. During this service we will remember and celebrate those family and friends. We will have a special table for pictures if you would like to bring one for that service.

If you would like to have the memory of a loved one included during this service, please contact Robin at Robin@StPaulsSparks.org, [775-358-4474](tel:775-358-4474).

Prayers and Squares

Prayers and Squares meet on the 4th Saturday of the month in the parish hall beginning at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please join us.

So far this year we have given out 46 quilts.

Thank you,
Prayers and Squares Team

Covid Vaccine Shots in October

Immunize Nevada will be at St. Paul's every Wednesday in October from 9:30 to 12:30. They will offer Pfizer, Pfizer Booster, Moderna, and J&J. (No flu shots.) (Come to the south side of the building. No appointment necessary.)

St. Paul's Blood Drive

Mark your calendar! St. Paul's will host a Vitalent Blood Drive on November 28th!

Give the source of life! Right now we are looking at the hours of operation on Sunday, November 28th will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., but those hours could change.

North Entry Project in November

The North Entry of the church will see a big improvement in November 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.

We are still collecting funds to complete this project. 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!

Church School Opens

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



Church School has started, and we look forward to more of the children joining the fun. 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

Church Ministries need you!



There are several ministries that support St. Paul's. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. We always need people to assist on Sunday Services.

If you are interested in becoming a **Lector** (reading of the lessons & prayers of the people), **Acolyte** (Torch Bearer or Crucifer) **Altar Guild** (preparing the church table and Altar for Sunday Service). Other ministries include, **Prayers & Squares**, (You don't need to know how to sew in order to help), **Laundry Love**, (helping at the Laundromat or donating funds to pay for washers or dryers, soap & fabric softener). **Helping Hands**, Helping Hands help the families if there is an extreme situation that would require us to reach out with a helping hand. They prepare meals/items, help deliver them or donate funds to purchase the items that are needed at the time.

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