



March

**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

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

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



It has been a joy, over the past six months, helping Shannon, our parking lot resident, work from homelessness to something more stable. We were able to use clergy discretionary funds to purchase

him a fixer upper RV, which you may have seen in our parking lot.

Helping someone move into a more stable living arrangement takes time. You have to have patience and flexibility to get where you want to go. This is not much different than our faith journey. Sometimes we end up where we don't want to be and need a little help.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to bring hope and healing into the lives of those who need it, and we are called to accept it from others when our own needs arise.

Thank you for helping Shannon feel at home and I ask you to pray that he finds the same level of welcome and belonging wherever the road takes him.

Kirk⁺

Invitation to a Holy Lent

*The
Season
of
Lent*



The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and

fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you,

therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

Therefore, Lent is a time to take a deeper look at yourself to find ways in which to heal relationships.

Things to give up for Lent

Bitterness – This only hurts ourselves.

Worry – Worrying can't solve anything.

Resistance to Change – Change is certain.

Pride – Pride creates blindness to the world.

Small View of God – Don't tell God how big your problem is, tell your problem how big your God is.

Ungratefulness – You have been blessed in a way greater than you realize.

Fear of Failure – You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fail forward.

Your Comfort Zone – It's outside our comfort zones where new discoveries are made.

Feelings of Unworthiness – You are fearfully and wonderfully made by your creator.

Impatience – God's timing is the perfect timing.

Comparison – Comparison destroys happiness.

Blame – Blame is the discharging of discomfort, pain, and anger. It has an opposite relationship with accountability. Begin to take responsibility for your actions.

Over Commitment – Do less better and accomplish more.

Apathy – Life is too short not to care.

Hatred – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Perfection – Strive for excellence, not perfection. When you seek perfection you are doing so to please others, not yourself.

Trying to Fit in – Try being yourself instead.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, also called The Way of the Cross, will be offered each Thursday in Lent from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 13th, 2022 – Spring Forward!

Turn your clocks ahead one hour on March 12th before you go to bed... then you won't miss church!



The Fork in the Road

Written by parishioner Connie Swain

A fork in the road implies a choice between one or more directions when traveling. I think the same can be said for our life journey. We often come to places in our life where we have to decide or choose how we feel about something, then move forward with that decision. The impact of the choice can have short term effects, like how we feel when we eat too much or stay up too late, or long-term effects like buying a new house. Some choices affect not only us, but those around us. Today, I want to tell you about a fork in the road I came to about 15 months ago, and how that impacted my life, and how I believe it impacts those around me...especially my students.

I grew up in a very bigoted racist home. My father had no problem using slang to name other cultures and races and was frequently heard using those terms in our home. My mom never blinked or disagreed, giving the appearance of going along with him. The name calling made me sad, because I didn't like that bad names could be pinned to anyone...but I was used to it. This was my first fork in the road...I could choose to be like my parents, or I could choose to be better.

As I started working with children and youth, I learned to accept every culture I came in contact with. To me, people were just people. It didn't matter what age, size, color, shape...they just were who they were. I worked with people from the poorest of the poor to the very wealthy. I didn't compare. I did what I could to help where I could and really tried to see people as people. When I started working for Job Corps some 26 years ago, I worked with a lot of students with a lot of different skin tones. At that time, I took on the phrase that I didn't see color, meaning I didn't see the differences between their skin color

and mine, but I didn't look deeper at cultures and customs that I didn't recognize or understand. So, it wasn't quite true that I didn't see the differences, but I also worked hard to learn and not judge. For example, I didn't know what hair extensions were. (Side note: they are synthetic or real hair that is glued or clipped into hair on the scalp to extend the length of your real hair, and often worn by African-American students at that time), so imagine my confusion and surprise when one of my students with a very short haircut one day came in with long flowing hair the next...yeah...we ALL laughed at my confusion over that one.

Sadly, I stood by my not seeing color for a lot of years. 15 months ago, I discovered that I was living out my white privilege in saying that. By denying color, I was making everyone the same as me. If they were the same as me, then they didn't face the issues of slavery or poverty or job insecurity or housing or discrimination or the myriad of issues that those of color and indigenous people face every day of their lives. While what I meant was that I didn't judge by the color of skin, what I was really saying was that I didn't recognize all the issues that came with having skin a different color than mine. I may not have been using names, or even judging them, but I sure wasn't recognizing what their lives might be like.

Over the course of discussion in Sacred Circle, I have learned a lot about myself, about what role my people...my heritage...has played in building this country, and how white privilege is a real thing. That is not to say that my life is all sunshine and roses and that I haven't faced some truly hard times, but because of the color of my skin there are things I don't have to fear as much...like getting shot if I get pulled over for speeding, or how I will be treated at the emergency room, or even asking for help at the grocery store...because I am an elderly white woman. It isn't fair, but it is fact. And I'm glad I am learning about it now, so I do see color...can learn more from my students...and can be at least a part of the change I want to see in the world.

UPDATED: Worship Information

We are once again worshipping in-person and on Zoom.

Here is what we need from you.

Masks are required for all attending in-person worship and in-person gatherings. The parish leadership will reevaluate the Covid situation at the next vestry meeting on March 14th.

If you have any cold, flu, or out of the ordinary allergy systems, please join us on Zoom.

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.

Thank you,

Prayers and Squares Team

Recovery Groups at St. Paul's

Wednesdays: Women's AA @ 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Ala-Non Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

The pantry needs help! Are you able?

Tuesday 9:00 to 11:00

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

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2022

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2022 is scheduled. Please add to your calendars and save the dates Friday, April 29 through Sunday May 1, 2022. Two nights at Camp Galilee, arriving Friday afternoon and leaving Sunday noon, before lunch, Friday night meal to be provided by those attending and all other meals provided by Camp Galilee staff. Cost \$165 per person. We were able to reserve the same cost as 2020 before the Corona Virus pandemic cancelled plans in 2020.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Mary Moss

marykmoss1@gmail.com or (805) 495-5636 or Jody Rolfson jody@rolfson.reno.nv.us or (775) 772-5318. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's and note for SPGW 2022, we will have lots of fun, good food, great conversation, and movie fun. Hope to see you there.

Altar Guild

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the Altar Guild Team. If you are interested, please contact either Sue Schultz at 775-626-5814 or the church office at 775-358-4474. Training is provided.

St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to Robin at church or Rita at honda07rita@gmail.com or 775-971-4775.

Prayer requests for your special people will be on for about 2 months, unless you need a longer date. Your special people will be lifted to our Lord each day. Thank you for the privilege of praying for you and your special people.

Adult Class: Episcopal 101

Confirmation, Reception

Reaffirmation, Adult Baptism

Mondays: April 25, May 2-23

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (no meeting May 9)

Sign up at Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org

Are you new to the Episcopal Church and want to dig in and explore? **This class is for you.**

Have you been around for a while but have never been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church? **This class is for you.**

Have you never been baptized? **This class is for you.** Have you been confirmed, but you would like to reaffirm/renew your commitment to Christ through St. Paul's? **This class is for you.**

Would you just like to come and learn more about the Episcopal Church and what it means to live out your faith? **This class is for you.**

This class is an adult preparation class for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation and Adult Baptism.

What are Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation and Holy Baptism?

Confirmation: Confirmation is the affirmation of one's baptismal vows. It is a sacramental rite in which baptized persons make a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength through the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. Confirmation is not required to become full members of Christ's Body; baptism takes care of that. But for those who were baptized at an early age they are expected, when mature and ready, to make a public affirmation of their faith.

Reception: Persons presented for Reception are those who have been baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, have previously made an adult public affirmation of faith in any other Christian Tradition (either at their adult Baptism or on a separate occasion), and now desire to live their faith within the fellowship of the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation: Reaffirmation is suitable in a variety of situations for persons who have previously been Confirmed or Received. Have you returned to church after a period of being gone? Have you recently experienced some transition in your spiritual or church life that has changed your perspective? Was your Confirmation so long ago that it is time to reaffirm it? Were you so young that you don't feel you were mature at your Confirmation? Reaffirmation is a repeatable rite of renewal.

Adult Baptism: Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Next Baptismal Days: April 16 & 17

Are you or a loved one seeking the Sacrament of Holy Baptism? If so, contact Fr. Kirk at 775-358-4474 or Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

Our next baptismal days will be Easter Vigil, April 16th, and Easter Day, April 17th.

An Invitation From Deacon Mike

Watching birds the other day I spotted a bird I assumed was a sparrow of some type. But Donna said that does not look right, so I looked a little closer. The bird was a female Red Wing Black Bird, a brown striped bird that looks like a large sparrow. My snap assumption was wrong.

How often are our assumptions wrong about people? We have many assumptions that have developed over our lifetimes and experiences don't we? Have we looked to see where these assumptions that we call facts come from? Perhaps they originate from our friends and families, perhaps from movies or TV. If Christ calls us to love all people, shouldn't we change our assumptions about them?

St Paul's is going to sponsor another Sacred Ground circle starting soon. Sacred Ground is a program written by the National Episcopal Church looking at race in our society. The program will challenge our assumptions and perhaps open our hearts to all of God's Children.

Please take the time to watch this short video, "We Bless You" to get a better understanding as to importance of you joining the Sacred Ground Circle at St. Paul's. This link will take you to the video. <https://youtu.be/v5NuEBilvAE>

If you have questions, please contact Fr Kirk, or the facilitators Mike Margerum 775-229-2695; mgoodmarge@gmail.com and Robin Towne robinatowne@yahoo.com.

We are hopeful you will join us.

Deacon Mike Margerum

Alyson Broderdorf

After a long battle with a series of health issues, Alyson died on Friday, March 4th. Please keep her mother Sue and the family in your prayers.