



# September

**ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

[www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://www.StPaulsSparks.org)

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

## Sunday Worship Information

10:00 a.m. In-person and on Zoom  
Holy Communion Service

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

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



### Come celebrate with us!

This BIG CELEBRATION PARTY is where we will ALL discover how much cash we have raised in the past 90 days toward the parking lot project!

**Join us at 11:30 a.m. (after worship) on Sept. 10 at Ardmore Park across the street from the church.** Come even if you don't come to the worship service! We are planning to broadcast **the fundraising announcement via Zoom at 11:45** (same link as the service) for those who are attending by distance.

Burgers, hot dogs, otter pops and more served up for free by our friends from Bikers Against Child Abuse! If you want something to drink other than water, you'll need to bring your own (no alcohol allowed in the park). **Bring your lawn chair!** Please join us for the announcement and food and some serious celebration. No matter what the total ends up being, God has done something great in our midst over these past 90 days, something larger than money.

Let's Do This TOGETHER!

Kirk+

## St. Paul's Parking Lot Construction

St. Paul's Parking Lot Construction began August 30th! Yes, that is correct!

It's going to be a mess for a while. It won't be fully completed until almost the end of September. The concrete drainage trough that runs down the middle of the asphalt is the cause of the lengthy project.

## What about Sunday Worship during September?

Sunday worship will continue in the church/nave as usual. We will continue to have walking access to the building. With that said, walking into the church will probably look differently each week.

Sunday, Sept 3, we will have packed dirt. There is no tar/oil, etc., just dirt. If the dirt is wet there

is a good chance that we'll have some mud. The old concrete trough/gutter is still there, so in some places that would need to be stepped on to get over it. I think the shortest path will be to go behind the library and walk straight across the dirt into the east garden gate. If you are unsteady on your feet, please join us on Zoom. Information for Zoom will be in the regular weekly e-blast.

**If you have any mobility issues, it is advised that you join worship on ZOOM.**

## Senior Warden's Report

Exciting times are under way at the church! The old parking lot is being removed as I type this! Nevada Paving is already working hard on the renovation.

Remember the celebration on September 10 to reveal the total amount we gave toward the parking lot work. There will be a party in Ardmore Park, across from the church immediately after services.

As I announced in church a few weeks ago, I have cancer of the appendix. I am undergoing several tests to determine what the treatment plan will be. I am feeling well and will keep you informed as the doctors let me know what to expect.

Margaret Bouzek  
Senior Warden

## Empty Bowls 2023

The Empty Bowls event, a fundraiser for The Community Food Pantry, will be held from 5pm to 8pm on **Wednesday, September 20** at The Generator (event space) on 2450 Oddie Blvd. Tickets for the event are \$55. The event includes dinner, program, raffle and silent auction. See Linda Devon or Barbara Monroy for tickets.

**Have you painted a bowl for this event?** The last day to paint bowls at The Playful Potter is **Friday, September 8**. If you have any questions about painting a bowl or the Empty Bowls event, please talk with Tia Mittelstadt, Linda Devon or Barbara Monroy.

## Closed Captions: Lost in Translation

Have you ever watched the classic Monty Python movie, The Life of Brian? There is a scene where Jesus is preaching, and the crowd was so large that it was hard to hear what was being said if you were in the back. The scene plays out like this...

*Mrs. Gregory:* What did he say?

*Spectator:* I think it was "Blessed are the cheesemakers".

*Mrs. Gregory:* Aha, what's so special about the cheesemakers?

*Gregory:* Well, obviously it's not meant to be taken literally; it refers to any manufacturers of dairy products."

Even though I have watched that movie 15 times or so over the years, "Blessed are the Cheesemakers" still makes me laugh.

If you have ever joined our worship on Zoom you may have noticed that the closed captions does not always get things correct, and at times it can even be comical.

Mary English has kept track of some of these missed translations. Here are a some of the more colorful ones:

Barber son = father and son

Lift our hair = lift our prayers

Oh man = Amen

Grape Jews = Grape juice

Dressed in fine women = Dressed in fine linen

See your brain = glory be your Name

The gossip of the Lord = The Gospel of the Lord

Phone Jesus = from Jesus

Car virgin = incarnate

Worse with you = worship and glorified

Feed my jeep = Feed my Sheep

Receive holy chameleon = Receive Holy Communion

Keep on smiling...there just might be more of these next month!

Cheese,  
Kirk+

## Funding the Mission

**(This was inadvertently left out of last months newsletter...sorry for the delay.)**

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church, July 2023



The second quarter financial results for 2023 tracked quite closely to the budget projections. Operating receipts totaled \$59,091 and operating expenses totaled \$71,970. This gave us an operating deficit for the quarter of \$12,879 compared to the budget's deficit prediction of \$10,003. It has become typical in recent years to run quarterly deficits in the last three quarters due to a large amount of annual pledges being pre-paid in the 1st quarter. A bigger concern for me with inflation present everywhere, is whether we are keeping our expenses under control. For the second quarter, we exceeded our expense budget by \$965, but for the year to date, we are under budget by \$2,011.

Consequently, the bottom line results for the 1st half of the year are very favorable. We have accumulated a surplus of \$22,177 compared to the budget's prediction of a \$10,463 surplus. Again, with pre-paid pledges, we should expect a surplus in the first half of the year, but with total giving where it's at and expenses under control, I am hopeful that at year end we can again keep a portion of this surplus instead of using our savings to cover the budget's predicted \$16,974 annual deficit.

The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity and is posted in the narthex. 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](mailto:Treasurer@stpaulssparks.org) IMPORTANT NOTE: By all your gifts, we are blessed. For your gifts we are grateful.

### 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.

## Silent Movie Fundraiser



Have you ever watched a silent movie the way they were originally experienced? Come and experience Nosferatu and Dorothy Jean Papadakos within the beautiful architecture of Trinity Cathedral in downtown Reno. **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.** A reception before the show with light hors d'oeuvres and wine is also available. Tickets for both can be purchased by searching St. Paul's Sparks on Eventbrite.com.

A little bit about Dorothy Jean: She is an American concert organist, composer, lyricist, playwright, and author. She is the former organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City (1990–2003), the first female organist to hold that post. She was also organist for the Paul Winter Consort at the Cathedral's Easter and Christmas services and performed with the ensemble on their Grammy Award-winning album Silver Solstice, released in 2005. In 2005, Papadakos co-produced Pompeii the Musical, for which she wrote the book, music and lyrics. Its production was well-received, breaking box office records when it premiered in Wilmington, North Carolina.

In 2017, her first novel, The Kingdom of Winter, was published. Using fantasy characters to address climate change concerns, the book is now used in a science and literature curriculum for middle-school students.

## St. Paul's Men's Pizza Night

All the men of St. Paul's (and their friends) are invited to gather at Boulevard Pizza in Sparks on the last Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:00ish. We will share pizza, beer/soft drinks, and fellowship. This group communicates by group text, so if you want a monthly reminder or more information, email Dick Schori at richard.schori@gmail.com.

## Recovery Group at St. Paul's

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

## Friday Bible Study on Zoom

Come and join Fr. Kirk on Friday mornings from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** We are currently studying the Sunday Gospel lesson for the week. If you would like to join the bible study on **ZOOM**, first email [Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org) so you can receive the scriptures for the day and then join by using this link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86365786953?pwd=ZzkwME9iYy9FZWVWRxbSs0d3NaOFIiUT09>

## School Supply Drive

Daughters of the King has started its School Supply Drive. This year we have added another at risk school to our giving.

We will supply Robert Mitchell and Agnes Risley Elementary, which have mostly low socio-economic children enrolled. Both schools serve the Sparks Community served by St. Paul's.

With the excitement and joy around getting the new parking lot done now, we felt that the best way to serve the schools would be for the second semester after Christmas. Teachers have told us many times in the past that after Christmas break the cupboards are bare. The need for school supplies is often harder for parents/caregivers at that time of year, and we have decided to fill the need.

We will be accepting school supply donations through January 15th. If there is no designated box in the Narthex, please put them on the bench next to the parish office door, or if you don't shop, we will be happy to shop for you! Please contact Connie Patterson [cp4675@att.net](mailto:cp4675@att.net) or call the church 775-358-4474 for any questions you might have.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for making this School Supply Drive possible. We are so blessed. Connie Patterson

## Donate Your Old Computers

The Lion's Club is taking donations of old retired but usable Windows computers as well as old broken trash computer equipment. Working computers will be repurposed for those in need and the broken ones will be recycled.



You can bring these computers to the church for pickup by Dick Schori. If you have questions, contact him at [richard.schori@gmail.com](mailto:richard.schori@gmail.com).

## Laundry Love

This once-a-month ministry helps people do their laundry so they can use their limited funds on medicine, rent, etc. Doing a load of laundry is expensive, so we continually collect quarters (or other \$\$ that we can turn into quarters). **Monetary donations can be sealed in special Laundry Love envelopes and placed in the offering plate.**



If you have any questions or interest in helping with ministry, contact Linda Devon at [LSD4764@hotmail.com](mailto:LSD4764@hotmail.com).

## St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to Rita at [honda07rita@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Book Study to Begin October 8<sup>th</sup>

**October 8-November 12, 2:00pm to 4:30pm**

The book can be purchased from wherever you buy your books.

*Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien.

What was clear to the original readers of Scripture is not always clear to us. Because of the cultural distance between the biblical world and our contemporary setting, we often bring modern Western biases to the text. For example:

- When Western readers hear Paul exhorting women to "dress modestly," we automatically think in terms of sexual modesty. But most women in

that culture would never wear racy clothing. The context suggests that Paul is likely more concerned about *economic* modesty—that Christian women not flaunt their wealth through expensive clothes, braided hair and gold jewelry.

- Some readers might assume that Moses married "below himself" because his wife was a dark-skinned Cushite. Actually, Hebrews were the slave race, not the Cushites, who were highly respected. Aaron and Miriam probably thought Moses was being presumptuous by marrying "above himself."
- Western individualism leads us to assume that Mary and Joseph traveled alone to Bethlehem. What went without saying was that they were likely accompanied by a large entourage of extended family.

Biblical scholars Brandon O'Brien and Randy Richards shed light on the ways that Western readers often misunderstand the cultural dynamics of the Bible. They identify nine key areas where modern Westerners have significantly different assumptions about what might be going on in a text. Drawing on their own cross-cultural experience in global mission, O'Brien and Richards show how better self-awareness and understanding of cultural differences in language, time and social mores allow us to see the Bible in fresh and unexpected ways.

Getting beyond our own cultural assumptions is increasingly important for being Christians in our interconnected and globalized world. Learn to read Scripture as a member of the global body of Christ.

## Calendar at a Glance

Sept. 08, Last Day to Paint an Empty Bowl  
Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m. Parking Lot Celebration!  
Sept. 10, 11:45 a.m. How much we raised!  
Sept. 11, 6:00 p.m. Monthly Vestry Meeting  
Sept. 20, 5:00 p.m. Empty Bowls Event  
Sept. 28, 4:30 p.m. Men's Pizza Night  
Sept. 28, Laundry Love

# NOSFERATU

The +FIRST+ Vampire Movie ever!

Watch the 1922 classic silent film +**NOSFERATU**+ starring MAX SCHRECK accompanied by world renowned organist DOROTHY PAPADAKOS *improvising* the score on the spot on a cathedral pipe organ!

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
200 Island Avenue • Reno NV  
NOVEMBER 3, 2023  
5:30PM Wine Reception \$15  
7PM Benefit Concert \$40

<https://Nosferatu-Reception.eventbrite.com>

<https://DPapadakosconcert113.eventbrite.com>

This is a fundraiser for the St. Paul's parking lot renovation. ALL VAMPIRES WELCOME!

