



May

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

775-358-4474

www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Very 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
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P. O. Box 737
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From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...



Everywhere I turn I see people picking sides, claiming their side as good/righteous and the other side as bad/evil. Do you find yourself doing that too? I know I do, even when I try my best not to.

When I look at how Jesus handled such things, it appears to me that instead of picking "sides", Jesus picked people. Jesus chose people over power, people over tradition, people over religious law, people, people, people...Jesus chose people.

Let's do that. Let's choose people. Is someone being killed or harmed? Choose them. Is someone being wronged? Choose them. Is someone being excluded? Choose them. Is someone sick, lonely, hungry, lost? Choose them. The older I get the more I realize the size and health of my faith has less to do with me and more to do about them. I choose them.

Kirk



Sr. Warden Report

Welcome May!

I hope this finds you all enjoying the crazy spring weather we are having. I know my flowers are happy with the moisture.

We have been doing a lot of yard work at our home. It makes me appreciate the many people who work at that job all year long. They really have stamina to do it day in and day out. If you get the chance to thank them for the job they do, please consider doing so.

We are looking forward to tasting all the wonderful foods at the Pentecost Potluck. Rumor has it we will have some award-winning spaghetti with meat sauce, yummmmmm.

There is still time to make a reservation for the Episcopal Women's Spring Tea on May 4 beginning at noon. Just send me an email or call: margaret.bouzek@gmail.com or 775-232-4712.

A big thank you to all who made the Philadelphia 11 program possible. I remember those days as being chaotic in many respects, the Viet Nam War protests, the campus protests, political party unrest and demonstrations. It is hard to believe that 50 years have passed, and we are still fighting for many of the same things. Please pray for our country and those who continue to be marginalized.

Margaret Bouzek
Senior Warden

Funding the *Mission*: April 2024



The first quarter financial results for 2024 were very strong. Operating receipts totaled \$112,148 and operating expenses totaled \$69,966. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$42,182 compared to the budget's predicted surplus of \$34,547. It is typical in the first quarter for us to run a significant surplus because several parishioners give their entire yearly pledge at the beginning of the year and the budget attempts to predict this.

However, this year the 1st quarter surplus exceeded the above mentioned budget allowance as expenses for the quarter were almost \$6,800 lower than predicted. The majority of this was due to open staff positions in the nursery and office. These positions are

now filled and I expect future quarterly expenses to be closer to budget.

Inflation continues to be a concern of mine for the church. Our expenses for the 1st quarter 2024 were 4.75% higher than the 1st quarter 2023. However, the good news is that pledge payments and plate donations were up 5.6% compared to last year.

As we move through the next three quarters, our cumulative operating surplus should shrink as pledge payments are not expected to keep up with expenses. We should have a better view at the end of the 2nd quarter as to how we are tracking to the budget's year end prediction of an accumulated deficit of \$16,974.

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 IMPORTANT
NOTE: By all your gifts, we are blessed. For your gifts we are grateful.

St. Paul's Prayer Team

Please call or email a prayer request to 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.

UNITED THANK OFFERING 2024

May 5 – November 3, 2024

The United Thank Offering (UTO) was founded in 1883 as a way to raise funds to support mission and ministry sites of The Episcopal Church that were without funding. The women of the church began by asking the assembled groups to make a thank offering for all the blessings of their past year. From this first thank offering grew our modern-day experience of UTO. UTO encourages people to

develop a practice of gratitude and from that practice to make thank offerings for all the blessings they experience. 100% of these offerings are then given away the following year to support innovative mission and ministry projects around the globe. Currently all grants awarded in the next three years are within the focus of Mathew 25, welcoming the stranger.

St. Paul's United Thank Offering Campaign will begin May 5 and May 12 with UTO BOXES featured in the Narthex and culminating on Ingathering Sunday November 3. The UTO Blue Boxes offers St. Paul's parishioners a chance to express Gratitude for Blessings large or small. By placing pennies, dimes, dollars in the box we thank God for the blessings in our lives: a loved one's birthday, a sunny day or a rainy one, a new job, for healing or for just being. If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Dixon, 774-747-4485.

Empty Bowls 2024

It's Year 15 for Empty Bowls!!!

Save the Date: 9/18/24 Location: TBA

The bowls can be painted at **The Hot Spot - Located @**  **Legends in Sparks**

M-Sa 10a-9pm and Sunday 10-5pm. There are two bowl sizes this year. The larger bowl (which is what we have painted before) is \$20 and a smaller bowl for \$12. All bowls will be auctioned at the event. Painting can begin anytime.

Mid-Week Visits with Fr. Kirk

Would you like some time to visit with Fr. Kirk?

This could be in the office, at your home, at a coffee shop, for lunch, etc. If you want such an opportunity, please contact him at 775-358-4474 or Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

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 Girls Weekend 2024 May 3-5, 2024

St. Paul's Girls Weekend 2024 will be held Friday, May 3, Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5 at Camp Galilee, Lake Tahoe.

Who: Women of all ages and their friends are invited.

When: Friday, May 3-Sunday, May 5

Where: Camp Galilee, Lake Tahoe

Why: Come enjoy the beauty of Lake Tahoe, walk on the beach (the camp is steps from Lake Tahoe), get to know other women from our church, eat delicious food, have great conversations, play games, watch movies, enjoy an art project or two, go to South Lake Tahoe to shop or see a movie, and relax!

Price: \$200 per person. (Galilee raised their per person price and took away the Diocesan discount.) Limited scholarships are available- if needed, please chat with Tia. Payment due before the event.

The weekend will begin with dinner on Friday night. Everyone attending will contribute a food item for Friday dinner. All meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are included and prepared by Camp Galilee staff.

For more information or to confirm your attendance, you can call or email Tia Mittelstadt at tia.mittel@gmail.com or 775-722-3329; or Erin Anderson at erin@trinity-ai.com or 775-250-2699. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and please note for SPGW 2023 on the memo line. Hope to see you there!

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.



Friday Bible Study on Zoom

Bible Study Canceled May 2nd.

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 so you can receive the scriptures for the day and then join by using this link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86365786953?pwd=ZzkwME9iYy9FZWVWRxbSs0d3NaOFIhUT09>

Worship Leader Schedule

The current worship Leader schedule can be found at www.StPaulsSparks.org under the ministries tab.

Trouble with Some Emails

If you are one who has an email address through **ATT.net**, there is a good chance you are not getting email sent directly from Fr. Kirk and maybe even the office email address. You are probably getting the weekly e-blasts that come from the office email address, however those are sent through our bulk email account MailChimp. If you have an ATT.net email address, please add Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org and Office@StPaulsSparks.org to your "safe senders" list. This may or may not help, however please give it a try.

Historically there have been times our emails sent to **Yahoo.com**, **SBCGlobal.net**, and **Charter.net** weren't going through as well. It's really a good idea if everyone adds these addresses to your safe sender list.

Thank you.

Pentecost Sunday

May 19th: 10:00 a.m.

This special Pentecost celebration is held outside if the weather permits.

We encourage everyone to wear lots of red, which is the color of the Holy Spirit. If it's hot, wear a hat!

We will need some extra set-up helpers that morning.

If you are interested, please contact Fr. Kirk 775-358-4474 Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org.

Our Church home needs some TLC

Like most of our homes, our church home also needs some occasional routine maintenance. If you have expertise in helping with any of the following projects, please contact Jr. Warden, Mark Sawdon (707) 327-9125 or email: MVSawdon@gmail.com.

- Cross on southside facing the school needs sanding/paint and reattached.
- Garden planters' wood: sand/paint.
- Garden planters' tiles – some need reattachment.
- Roof beam end caps (garden side) need sanding/painting and reattach metal protection.
- Door behind southside cross needs prep and staining/paint.
- Lynch Gate - whole unit needs paint (after pre-arranged repairs.)
- Gazebo - whole unit needs paint.
- North Narthex Doors – needs threshold/weather stripping.

Calendar at a Glance

May 5, 12:00p EWN Spring Tea
 May 3-5 St. Paul's Girl's Weekend
 May 19, Pentecost Sunday
 May 19, Paint Party for Empty Bowls
 May 25, Canceled Prayers and Squares
 May 25, 3:00pm DOK Quiet Day
 May 27, Memorial Day, Office Closed

EPISCOPAL NIGHT AT THE ACES

7.26
6:35 P.M.

LAS VEGAS
VS. AVIATORS

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE

TRIPLE-A AFFILIATE | MLB | GREATER FIELD NEVADA

PAINT PARTY 4 EMPTY BOWLS
 2024 15th ANNUAL

MAY 19TH @ THE HOT SPOT

BEGINNER FRIENDLY!
 Artists on site for ideas or to help bring yours to life
 No RSVP

Plan 1-2 hrs to paint
 Between 2-6 PM
 1180 Scheels Dr.
 #B107 Sparks, NV
 Across from the IMAX

ALL AGES

\$12-20
 Per bowl

All Supplies Included!
 Snacks and drinks Will Be Served!