



# December

**ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

775-358-4474

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

## Sunday Worship Information

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

## Contents

Senior Warden Report.....	2
<b>UNITED THANK OFFERING.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Winter Book Study.....	2
Special Christmas Offering.....	2
“Greening” the Church: Dec 21st .....	3
“Blue” Christmas Service: Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> ...	3
Special Holiday Worship Times .....	3
Annual Parish Meeting .....	3
Seeking Members of the Vestry.....	3
St Paul’s Altar Guild .....	3
Plants Available .....	4
Worship Leader Schedule .....	4
Donate Your Old Computers .....	4
St. Paul's Prayer Team.....	4
Want Something in the Newsletter?..	4

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
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P. O. Box 737  
Sparks NV 89432

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## Senior Warden Report



December! Already!

My goodness, can you believe how quickly the year went by?

December is always a busy time so be sure to stay tuned to weekly messages regarding the events you may wish to participate in.

Here are a few highlights:

Advent begins November 30th.

Blue Christmas is December 20 6:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols is December 21 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve services on December 24 are at 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Stay tuned to see if we are having a Christmas Day service as that is not yet finalized.

We are proceeding with the rector search process. In January we will be conducting a parish wide survey that will be very helpful to a new rector. You will receive an invitation and link to the survey at the appropriate time.

Rev. Ruth will lead a book study beginning Nov. 30th. There is a sign-up sheet on an easel in the Narthex. Please sign up as soon as possible so books may be ordered for participants.

The book we are studying is about the Book of Common Prayer. If you are unfamiliar with our prayer book or would like more information about it you will find this a very helpful study.

We will have our Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. If you are a team leader, please prepare your annual report by the first of January.

We will elect 2 people to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting. If you wish to run for one of the positions, please contact me (Margaret.bouzek@gmail.com) by the end of December.

We will also elect delegates to the Diocesan Annual Meeting in October. Convention will be held via Zoom this year so no travel will be required. Please submit your name to the office by the end of December.

Thank you for your presence at St. Paul's,  
Margaret Bouzek  
Senior Warden

## UNITED THANK OFFERING

Almighty God, we give you praise for blessing us in many ways. Create in us grateful hearts and with these gifts a blessing start. Amen (UTO Book of Prayers)

In May, St. Paul's began their United Thank Offering Campaign to express our gratitude to God for the blessings received in our lives. Our ingathering was held in November; and, because of your gifts of gratitude St. Paul's will send \$580 to United Thank Offering to be used for program grants throughout the US and the Anglican Communion. Thank you to all parishioners for your generous response to God's blessings.

Kathie Dixon

## Winter Book Study

Beginning November 30, Rev. Ruth will lead us in an exploration of the Book of Common Prayer. We will meet following coffee hour for approximately one hour. Bring a light lunch or snack to share. The book is: Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer by Vicki Black. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to participate. Please check if you would like us to order the book for you. Discounted price of the book is \$10 if we order it.

## Special Christmas Offering and Christmas Flowers

Envelopes for both Christmas Flowers and Special Christmas Offering are in the Narthex. A donation to the Christmas Flowers is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and to

give thanks for God's blessings. The Special Christmas Offering this year will go to The Community Food Pantry and St. Paul's. **Deadline for flower dedications is noon on Dec. 19th.**

### **“Greening” the Church: Dec 21st**

We will need some extra help following the 10:00 service on December 21st. If you are able to stick around and set up the Christmas Trees, etc., it would be much appreciated.

### **“Blue” Christmas Service: Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**

Is Christmas time hard for you? There are numerous reasons why so many people struggle during this time of year. If you are someone that experiences more pain than joy around the holidays, you are not alone. Come and worship the Christ Child with others in the struggle. Come to our Blue Christmas service and invite those you know who might want to join you.

### **Special Holiday Worship Times**

**Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

**Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 p.m. Praise Service

8:00 p.m. Traditional Rite II

**December 26-January 1st**

Office Closed (mostly)

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

January 25th at 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, January 25th we will have our annual parish meeting blended into our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Every member is HIGHLY encouraged and/or expected to attend. We hope you will join us.

### **Seeking Members of the Vestry**

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

There will be two slots to fill during the coming Vestry election during the January 25th annual

parish meeting. We are seeking members to serve on the Vestry who have good listening skills, are a team player, and are willing to roll up their sleeves and do the work of this important ministry. The position of Vestry is a three-year term.

The canonical requirements to service on the Vestry are you must have your baptismal information recorded at St. Paul's, you must have been Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church, you must be an active member in good standing and have given financially to the church.

If you would like to help lead St. Paul's, please complete the following questions on this Vestry Nomination Form and email them to our Sr. Warden, Margaret Bouzek at [margaret.bouzek@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.bouzek@gmail.com) by the end of December.

### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Nomination Form 2025-2027 Term**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What does St. Paul's Episcopal Church mean to you?

What is your favorite part of the Baptismal Covenant and why?

What do you perceive as your gifts for ministry?

Why do you want to serve on the Vestry of St. Paul's Church?

### **St Paul's Altar Guild**

Are you looking to do more for St Paul's Episcopal Church? Is it the time of year to find new ways to serve your church?

The Altar Guild is getting ready for the busy fall and Holiday time of the year. There is much to do in weekly preparation for the holidays and our place of worship. There are changing

colors and then the Christmas celebration. The Altar Guild is busy this time of year and can always use some fresh faces and extra hands-on deck to complete the year.

Our goal is to make our holy place beautiful and filled with the Lord's spirit. If you would like to be involved in such a goal, to make our holy place special for yourself, family and friends consider volunteering. Assignments are scheduled so one does not have to do Altar Guild setup every week or by themselves. The tasks are shared with other members of the group, rotated so you are not working alone.

During times when several things must be done there are others who step up and help with the assignment. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact myself or other members of the Altar Guild. After Sunday services you can come forward and watch how we take down the altar, ask questions and learn about this beautiful ministry.

Contact: Rachael Pitts - 775-247-3417  
firelightandshadow@gmail.com

## **Plants Available**

The church has two rubber plants that are available to whomever would like to give them a good home.

## **Worship Leader Schedule**

The current worship Leader schedule can be found at [www.StPaulsSparks.org](http://www.StPaulsSparks.org) under the ministries tab.

## **Donate Your Old Computers**

The Lion's Club is taking donations of old retired but usable Windows computers as well as old broken 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).

## **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.

## **Want Something in the Newsletter?**

Email it to [Office@StPaulsSparks.org](mailto:Office@StPaulsSparks.org) by the 25<sup>th</sup> each month.