

THE EPISTLE

A Letter to the Saints in Sparks

The Gift of Listening

IN A WORLD THAT MOVES quickly and speaks loudly, listening can feel like a lost art. And yet, it is one of the most sacred things we can offer one another. To listen deeply without interrupting, without preparing our response, without judgment, is to say: you matter. It is an act of love.

In our faith, listening is how we come to know God. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," Samuel says in 1 Sam. 3:10. Again and again, scripture invites us to slow down and attend—to God, and to one another. Real listening creates space for the Spirit to move. It builds trust. It softens hearts. It reminds us that we belong to each other.

That's part of the hope behind our upcoming Meet & Greets. These are simple, casual gatherings, and they are a chance to practice the kind of listening that forms community. To hear someone's story.



To share a bit of your own. To discover, perhaps, that you are less alone than you thought. They are also a space to name what is going well at St. Paul's and to share your hopes for what comes next. Your voice matters here. Your insights will help shape the future of our life together.

If you're able, I encourage you to come to one of the four gatherings this month. Not to impress, not to fix, not to have all the right words—but simply to listen and be heard.

It's a small thing. And it might just change everything.

Peace,
Mother Hannah ✝

Senior Warden Report

WE ARE FINISHING

up this month and starting May will Meet and Greet Sessions with Mother Hannah and Dr. Kathy Wilder.



I hope you found a convenient time to attend one. We will have one more: Sunday, June 7 at the church beginning at 1:00pm. A sign up sheet will be available this weekend.

With Mother Hannah's leadership, we are moving forward on several issues that remained open while we had our rector search. One thing you can do to help is to volunteer! Your help is invaluable to us. Please watch for announcements for areas that are looking for helpers.

Vestry will have a retreat later in May. If you would like us to address a concern, please see: Kathie Dixon, Mary Lynch, Connie Swain, Karl Riclesberger, John Hannah, Elyse Monroy-Marsala or Margaret Bouzek.

Thank you for all you do for St. Paul's.

Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden
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United Thank Offering

By Kathie Dixon, Junior Warden

IN 1889 TWO EPISCOPAL WOMEN ENVISIONED A WAY TO COLLECT SMALL thank offerings as a personal expression of gratitude, and from this, our modern day United Thank Offering (UTO) was born. Today UTO members make thank offerings: and every penny given in gratitude and thanksgiving is then given away in grant funding. UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. During the 2025 campaign, the Ingathering was \$930,772.82 with grants totaling \$1,079,748.37 for innovative water and sanitation projects. This year's focus is "The Gifts of God for the People of God." In 2027, UTO will fund projects that focus on connecting the unique gifts of a particular church, diocese or province with the unique needs of its local community. St. Paul's campaign begins Sunday, May 3 and May 10 with UTO Blue Boxes available for pickup in the narthex (entryway) and culminating on Ingathering Sunday, November 1, All Saints' Day. The Blue Box offers each and every one of us a chance to express gratitude for blessings large or small. By placing change and dollars in the box, we thank God for blessings in our lives:



a loved one's birthday, a sunny day or a rainy one, a new job, for healing or just being. Jori Trimbell and I will have Gratitude Journals in the narthex to help you recognize and practice gratitude in just five minutes a day. For your children or grandchildren, there is a Spring Gratitude Scavenger Hunt. Any questions? Contact me: 775-846-9751 or catch me on Sunday. ✕

A Note on Receiving Communion



By: Mother Hannah

IN THESE FIRST MONTHS together, I've made a few small adjustments to our worship. Thank you for your flexibility as we grow into a shared rhythm. I am always open to your feedback, questions, and concerns—please feel free to call or email Ameer in the office to set a time to talk: office@stpaulssparks.org. One area I'd like to highlight is how we receive the wine at communion. I prefer to intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice for you. This is simply for health and safety, as self-intinction often leads to fingers touching the wine. To support this, I wash my hands during the Peace, and our chalice bearers sanitize their hands before serving.

You are still welcome to receive the bread and intinct for yourself. You may also choose to sip directly from the chalice. While this can feel unfamiliar, it is quite safe—the silver chalice naturally reduces germs, and our chalice bearers carefully wipe and rotate the cup between each person. If you choose to sip, please guide the chalice to your lips by holding the base, while the chalice bearer steadies it. You do not need to adjust your height—simply bring the cup to you. As it is offered, you will hear, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," and the response is "Amen." Thank you for your care, your openness, and your reverence as we share in this holy meal together. ✕

Earth Day & Park Cleanup

We'll celebrate Earth Day a little late this year—on Sunday, June 14 with a special liturgy, kicking off a year of creation care at St. Paul's. You can get involved now: join us for a cleanup of Ardmore Park on **Saturday, May 23, 10am–12pm**. Meet friends, enjoy the outdoors, and help care for our neighborhood. This is how we begin—simple steps, together. Questions? Contact Mike Margerum 775-229-2695 or Robin Towne 775-432-8574. ✕

Acolytes Needed

ASSIST AT THE ALTAR and help make our worship beautiful. Acolytes are critical to smooth and seamless liturgies. We're looking for more crucifers (people who carry the cross), altar servers, torch bearers, gospel bearers, and more. Email Mother Hannah: rector@stpaulssparks.org. ✕

Funding the Mission: April 2026

By Roger Towne, Treasurer

By all your gifts, **we are** *blessed.*
For your gifts, **we are** *grateful.*

OUR FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL results for 2026 were strong. Operating receipts totaled \$92,379 and operating expenses totaled \$44,447. This gave us an operating surplus for the quarter of \$47,932 compared to the budget's predicted surplus of \$26,003. Since the 2026 full year budget predicts a deficit of almost \$55,000, this is very good news. Four things contributed to this almost \$22,000 of "extra" surplus. First, pledge receipts were higher than I projected for the first quarter by \$4,200. Since pledge payments tend to even out to the budgeted amount by the end of the year, this is not necessary a windfall. However, three things happened in the first quarter that should help reduce our 2026 shortage.

1) Revenue from Sunday plate offerings and general donations

were \$5,300 higher than budgeted.

2) Revenue from rent payments were higher than expected.

3) Mother Hannah started as our rector one month later than I budgeted for her salary and benefits.

The total of these three items changes my 2026 crystal ball deficit projection to be just under \$40,000. The monthly Financial Statement of Mission contains detail on all our financial activity and is posted in the narthex. If you would like a copy, email me: treasurer@stpaulssparks.org You can direct questions personally to me or to any Vestry member. ✕

Faith Night at the Aces

Friday, May 29, 6:35pm

By Kathie Dixon, Junior Warden



GATES OPEN AT 5:30pm! Come out and support the Reno Aces as they take on the Sacramento River Cats! Tickets are \$22/person. Bring the whole family and enjoy fireworks, hot dogs, the ballgame, one of America's greatest pastimes.

Pre-game Show: Come listen to a local church band play spiritual songs followed by testimonials from some of the Aces players themselves!

JumboTron Shout Out: Join in on cheering for our church as its name is displayed on the JumboTron during the 5th inning!

Post Game Fireworks: Enjoy a free firework show without having to leave your seat!

Baseball Hat: Everyone will receive a memento to remember the day! Pick yours up at the tent down the third base line near the Coors Party Zone from one hour before the first pitch to one hour after! (5:35 - 7:30pm). Scan QR code for tickets. Contact me if you have questions: 775-846-9751. ✕



BAPTISM BLESSINGS: On Sunday, April 19, we baptized Fae Marie and welcomed her into the household of God! Her grandmother, Erika Dunson, sponsored her for the sacrament, along with her mother, JeanMarie. In the waters of baptism, we witness God's love made visible—tender, abundant, and alive—and we are renewed by the joy of a young life taking root in our community.

Installation & Induction
of
Mother Hannah
Pentecost
SUNDAY

May 24

10:00am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1135 12th St Sparks, NV 89434

If you feel so moved, you may wear red to symbolize the movement of the Holy Spirit. Plan to stay afterward for a special coffee hour.

