

THE EPISTLE

A Letter to the Saints in Sparks

Blessing of the Backpacks

By Mother Hannah, Rector



ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, we invite students of every age, teachers, school staff, professors, homeschool families, and lifelong learners to bring their backpacks, briefcases, laptop bags, tote bags, or any other instrument of teaching and learning to church.

During the service, we will pray for all who teach and all who learn, asking God to fill this new year with wisdom, curiosity, courage, patience, and joy. We will also give thanks for the gift of education and remember those around the world who do not yet have equal

access to safe schools and opportunities to learn. Jesus himself was a child who learned in the temple, growing "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people" (Lk. 2:52). As we begin another school year, we pray for safety and the joy of learning to be felt in tangible ways.

Whether you're heading to kindergarten, graduate school, a classroom, an office, or simply continuing the lifelong adventure of learning, we hope you'll come to church and receive a blessing as we begin this new season together. ✕

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Amee Hartman, Parish Administrator

Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

Kathie Dixon, Junior Warden

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner, Bishop

The Rev. Hannah Wilder, Rector

Senior Warden Report

By Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

THIS SUMMER

is going by quickly for me! I hope you are finding time to rest and relax before we get back to the fall schedule.



We have been making progress on clearing out the stored items that are no longer in use at the church. We have a bit more to go but will soon have much better organization of those areas. We would like to do some painting of a couple of our classroom areas. If you can help, please contact me, Margaret, margaret.bouzek@gmail.com, or Kathie Dixon, kadik1300@sbcglobal.net.

This fall we will continue the work we began on the discernment process. Please stay tuned for how you can help.

I want to encourage you to consider if you would like to run for a position on the vestry. We elect two people every year. The two people rotating off the vestry this year are not eligible for re-election. If you would like more information, please contact a current vestry person. Thank you to all who work so hard to keep St Paul's a welcoming, vibrant community. ✕

Disposing of Hazardous Household Waste Our Conservation Imperative

By Robin Towne, Eco-palians Co-Chair



NEW AND IMPROVED: Check out our new bulletin board in the hallway!

IN OUR HOUSE WE ARE MINDFUL

to set aside toxic items that should not end up in the landfill. We have a special box for used batteries, a shelf in the garage for paints and a footlocker of fertilizers, weed sprays and rabbit repellents in the shed. Occasionally we need to gather it all up and dispose of it safely.

In our community, Waste Management (WM) residential customers receive one voucher per year which allows for **free** drop off of up to 50 pounds of hazardous household waste.

Who: Current WM customers

When: Appointments available in July, August and September. Vouchers valid only during these months. Otherwise, regular charges apply.

How: Appointments required. Visit graymarenv.com to schedule your appointment; voucher required.

Where: GrayMar, 13203 S. Virginia St.

The website lists acceptable items for disposal. Together we can keep our community clean and safe. Eco-palians meet in the choir room on the second Sunday of the month after worship. Everyone is welcome. ✕

Preparing for Baptism



IN BAPTISM, WE JOIN THE FAMILY of God, sealed and marked as Christ's own forever, and joined to the communion of saints that stretches across every generation and every nation. It is both a beginning and a lifelong journey of faith. Our next baptism takes place on All Saints' Day, November 1. Sign-

up for the Baptism Preparation Class if you're interested. Parents and sponsors of children also welcome. We'll explore what baptism means, the promises we make, and how our community walks alongside another in the life of faith. Email Mother Hannah to sign up: rector@stpaulssparks.org. ✕



PROTECTING VULNERABLE ANIMALS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Join the Eco-palians for coffee hour in the parish hall after services on August 9. Deb Stiver recently returned from a mission trip to South Africa and in a photo presentation, will highlight current practices that protect endangered animals globally. Rhino and cheetah strategies will be highlighted. She will also share



information about how the Katie Adamson Conservation Fund (KACF), and International Development Missions (IDM) partner with other organizations to promote sustainable practices through education and cooperation with local communities. A taste of South African cuisine will be served! We hope to see you there. ✕

YOU ARE SEALED . . .
AND MARKED AS
CHRIST'S OWN
FOREVER.

Funding the Mission: July 2026

By Roger Towne, Treasurer

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

THE SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL results for 2026 were better than expected. Operating receipts totaled \$92,861 and operating expenses totaled \$100,941. This gave us an operating deficit for the quarter of \$8,080 compared to the budget's predicted deficit of \$23,613. Due to a large number of pre-paid pledges in the first and second quarter, we have accumulated a six month surplus of almost \$40,000.

In the expense area, we exceeded our budget for the first six months by about \$11,000. Most of this is attributable to building repairs and enhancements. Our other expenses have held fairly close to their budgets.

I am still expecting us to run a significant deficit for the last six months of the year that will likely

result in our first annual deficit in the last ten years. We have already received and booked 70% of our expected pledge revenue (our largest source of income) and the year is only 50% over. We also have a large building safety enhancement planned and approved for the second half of the year that will cost over \$30,000.

However, thanks to very strong financial results over the last several years, we can handle a deficit. Our "rainy day" savings fund currently sits at \$258,978.

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. ✕

Fire Alarm System Update



LAST YEAR WE INSTALLED A NEW fire alarm system and expected final approval from the fire marshal. During the inspection, however, we learned that the sanctuary needed additional work to bring our building fully up to code.

The unexpected cost is approximately \$35,000, which the Vestry has approved to be paid from our savings. We are not asking for additional donations at this time, but we wanted to be transparent about this unbudgeted expense.

These improvements will help ensure the safety of everyone who uses our campus—from Sunday worshipers to our Food Pantry guests. Thank you for your prayers as we continue to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to St. Paul's. ✕



Paint a **FREE** Bowl

Empty Bowls 2026

@thehotspot- reno sparks - Legends

Just let the staff know you are painting for Empty Bowls.
Your creative bowl will be auctioned at the fundraiser on 9/16/26

Your generosity supports
The Community Food Pantry

Bowls are free until we reach our goal of 100





Faithful Planning for the Future

An Estate & End-of-Life Planning Lunch

Sunday, September 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1135 12th St., Sparks
Complimentary Lunch



- **Wills and trusts**



- **Avoiding probate where appropriate**



- **Beneficiary designations and property transfers**



- **Financial Powers of Attorney**



- **Nevada Advance Health Care Directives**



- **Common questions and mistakes to avoid**

Planning ahead is one of the most loving gifts we can give to our loved ones. Join us for a practical and informative presentation by Gary M. Fuller, Esquire as he walks us through the essentials of planning for the future. Please RSVP to the church office by September 6 so we can prepare enough lunch for everyone.

Email Amee: office@stpaulssparks.org.

**Prepare wisely.
And leave a legacy.**

Come learn how!

RSVP by September 6: office@StPaulsSparks.org