

THE EPISTLE

A Letter to the Saints in Sparks

A Season of Invitation

By Mother Hannah, Rector

WHAT A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY, anxiety, stress—and wildfire. Over these past weeks, we have supported one another through some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable, as homes were threatened and families wondered what the next hour might bring.

Through it all, I have been deeply moved by the way this community has cared for one another. You have opened your homes to families, individuals, and pets who needed a safe place to land. You have offered rides, shared meals, checked on neighbors, prayed, and given one another hope. This is what Christian community looks like: making room for one another, especially when life feels uncertain.

The long road of recovery will ask us to continue practicing this kind of hospitality. And as we move into fall, I want to encourage us to make this a season of invitation.

Fall is always a wonderfully busy time in the life of the church, filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, and joy. Why keep these blessings to ourselves? Let's invite others to share them with us!

After all, we worship an inviting God—a God who continually makes room for us and invites us to the table.

There are so many opportunities to extend an invitation this fall. Invite a friend to the Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis Day, October 4. Invite someone to join us for Tuesday Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. Invite a neighbor who might be looking for a church home. And as we move toward Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, think about someone in your life who might appreciate being welcomed into the beauty and hope of these seasons.

I am also looking forward to beginning our fall pledge campaign, "Plenty Good Room." I am delighted that the income we receive throughout the year has been steadily increasing. That generosity allows

our ministry to grow and our community to flourish. Thank you for prayerfully considering your pledge for 2027 and the part you can play in making room for all that God is calling us to do.

So that is my invitation to you this fall: make room, and invite someone in. Who might be waiting for an invitation only you can extend? ✕

Senior Warden Report

By Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

CAN YOU

believe fall has arrived already!? I had way to much excitement when the fires burned north of Reno. We were in the "Prepare to Evacuate" area. I want to thank everyone for their concern during this time. My prayers go to those who did have to evacuate and those who lost property. A fund has been set up at the church for Disaster Relief if you would like to make a contribution.



There are many events going on in September. I want to encourage you to attend the class presented by Gary Fuller on End of Life Planning. It is a good thing to be prepared.

I will be away during September. I will be attending a reunion of friends as we celebrate our 75th birthday year. Dan and I are also going to go to the Northeast for 2 weeks. ✕

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1135 Twelfth Street

PO Box 737

Sparks, NV 89434

775-358-4474

office@StPaulsSparks.org

Amee Hartman, Parish Administrator

Margaret Bouzek, Senior Warden

Kathie Dixon, Junior Warden

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner, Bishop

The Rev. Hannah Wilder, Rector

Back To Nature

By Robin Towne, Eco-palians Co-Chair



AT ST. PAUL'S SPARKS WE

traditionally close summer with an outdoor picnic. Jon and Tia M. do a fabulous job of finding us local spots where we can gather together for food and fellowship and to soak up God's nature.

Our gathering this year will be on September 19 at Galena Creek Park. Details on last page of Epistle. We'll look at some of our local natural wonders. Creation Care will offer an easy nature walk before the picnic. Watch the news blast for the meeting time. There will also be a craft table and a nature based scavenger hunt for the children.

Our St. Paul's family has adopted Ardmore Park across the street from the church building. This means we do a major cleanup of the park twice a year through a partnership with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. This is a meaningful activity which reflects love for our neighborhood and care for God's creation. Watch for the fall cleanup date and join the team.

Do you have an idea, suggestion or experience about how St. Paul's might show more love for God's world? Please share. Creation Care meets in the choir room the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship. ✕

Help Us Recycle at St. Paul's!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW

volunteers to help strengthen our recycling efforts at St. Paul's! This is a simple, hands-on way to care for our church and for God's creation.

We need people who can occasionally stay after worship to help prepare our Sunday bulletins for recycling by removing the staples. The paper will then go to Deb Cusick's worm bin—giving our bulletins a whole new life!

We also need volunteers to help sort our other recyclables and prepare them for our recycling partner, Nevada Recycling.

Many hands make this work easy. If you'd like to be part of our St. Paul's Eco-Palians Recycling Team, please let us know. Together, even these small acts can become part of our faithful care for creation. ✕

Blessing of the Animals



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 10:00 A.M.

Bring your beloved creatures, great and small, and join us for a special Blessing of the Animals during our Sunday morning worship!

In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi and his love for all God's creatures, we will give thanks for the animals who share our lives and bless them during the service.

Dogs should be leashed, and all pets should be safely contained and comfortable around people and other animals. Whether furry, feathered, scaled, or something in between, all of God's creatures are welcome!

Come celebrate the joy, companionship, and unconditional love our animals bring into our lives ✕



Faithful Planning for the Future

AN ESTATE & END OF LIFE

Planning Lunch will be held on Sunday, September 13 12:00–1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

Planning ahead is one of the most loving gifts we can give to the people we care about. With that in mind, we invite you to join us for a practical and informative presentation by Gary M. Fuller, Esq., of Guild, Gallagher & Fuller, Ltd., as he walks us through the essentials of planning for the future.

Gary will cover a range of important topics, including wills and trusts, strategies for avoiding probate where appropriate, and how beneficiary designations and property transfers work. He will also explain the role of Financial Powers of Attorney and

Nevada Advance Health Care Directives, along with common questions and mistakes to avoid. Whether you've never created an estate plan or simply want to review what you already have, this presentation will help you better understand your options and prepare with confidence.

Following the presentation, the Rev. Hannah Wilder will offer a brief reflection on the spiritual practice of leaving a legacy and provide information for those who wish to remember St. Paul's in their long-term plans.

Please RSVP to the church office by September 6 so we can prepare enough lunch for everyone. Faithful Planning for the Future! ✕

Eucharistic Visitor Training

October 24, 10:00am

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN

bringing the bread and wine made holy to those who are unable to join us for worship? Come to our Eucharistic Visitor Training and learn about the history, practices, and sacred art of bringing Holy Communion to people who are homebound, hospitalized, or living in care facilities.

We are forming a team of Eucharistic Visitors who will go in

pairs and visit members of our community on a regular rotation. Eucharistic Visitors will be trained and licensed by the Diocese of Nevada and commissioned during Sunday worship. Each visit becomes an extension of our celebration of the Eucharist—a beautiful connection between those gathered around the altar at St. Paul's and those worshiping at home, in a hospital room, or in a care facility.

All are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. If you feel drawn to this gentle and meaningful ministry of presence, prayer, and communion, we invite you to come and learn more. ✕

StPaulsSparks.org



Help Neighbors Recover from Fires

THE RECENT BUG, STALLION, AND

Hawk Fires have brought fear, evacuation, loss, and uncertainty to families throughout our region. Here at St. Paul's, we have watched members of our own church family evacuate their homes, prepare to leave at a moment's notice, open their homes to others, care for displaced pets, offer rides and meals, and pray for one another.

We give thanks that our churches are safe, but we also know that not everyone has been so fortunate. Some of our neighbors and parishioners are returning to damaged homes, while others are beginning the difficult work of recovering from what they have experienced.

If you would like to help, St. Paul's has established a Fire Relief fund to assist people directly impacted by the fires. Donate here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/37265. Select "Fire Recovery" in the drop-down menu. Or send a check to St. Paul's with "Fire Relief" in the memo line.

Please continue to pray for those who have lost homes or property, those carrying fear and uncertainty, firefighters and first responders, and all helping our community recover.

O God, as the showers renew the earth, bathe us in your healing power. Stretch out your hand, that we may live and know that you alone are God, in whose faithfulness we have life all our days. Amen. (Daily Prayer for All Seasons, p. 149)

Thank you for helping St. Paul's and the wider Episcopal Church be a community of refuge, generosity, and hope. ✕

Church Picnic

at Galena Creek Park

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Where: Bearmat Group Site, Galena Creek Park

Time: Noon onward | Meal at 3:00 pm

Schedule

Noon: Arrive & enjoy the park

1:00 pm: Visitor Center Museum tours

3:00 pm: Picnic meal

What to Bring

Hotdogs, condiments & water provided.

Bring a salad, side, or dessert to share.

Feel free to bring your own meat & use the group grill.

About

Annual all-church potluck picnic!

7 miles up Mt. Rose Hwy (south Reno)

Northern entrance, above the Visitor Center

Questions? Contact Jon Mittelstadt at
jon.mittel@gmail.com

