

# The Briefly

The newsletter for the parish community of  
**Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
2331 E. Adams • Tucson, AZ 85719  
520-327-6857 • gsptucson.org

December 2019 /  
January 2020



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# From the Rector

## *The Last Christmas Tree in the World*

**T**HERE ARE VERY FEW, if any, events from my so called life that anyone would refer to as a “Hallmark moment,” unless their tongue was placed firmly in their cheek. However, there was that one Christmas...

Our parents had just moved from the old family homestead in Maryland where we had grown up, to a new home in Durham, N.C. We four children were all adults, spread out over the United States, as is now the norm in American culture. But we were all coming home for Christmas, to a place we had never been before.

With all of that change, all six of us were longing for a Christmas that would hearken back to the good ol’ days. Though we were all painfully aware that Thomas Wolfe was right, we all wanted to go home again anyway. So on Christmas Eve, the day we always put up and decorated our Christmas tree, we all stood there aghast when my mother opened this cardboard box and pulled out a green thing with bendable branches.

“What the bleep is this?,” the four of us yelled in unison. “Come on kids.” My mom answered. It’s a new time. It’s a new world. It’s time for an artificial tree.” The grumbling continued for the next 30 minutes as we started decorating the fake monstrosity. But when our parents walked out of the room, conspiring whispers began to be exchanged among us. Suddenly, we all stopped decorating and snuck out of the back of the house.

An hour and a half later, we had been to every Christmas tree lot in the greater Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill triangle. Finally, we found one that had three trees remaining. One of them was not half bad. It was only 4 p.m., but of course, the lot was locked up, the proprietor long gone to spend Christmas with his family. So my brother and I stuck our appendages through the narrow chain link fence, and managed to get a hand around

An anticipatory and expectation-filled Advent to each of you, followed by a blessed Christmas season...”

*Continued on Page 2*



Members of GSP, including Fr. Steve & Jean, joined in recent protests at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument where construction of the border wall threatens the environment.

## Submissions to **The Briefly**

Please submit articles  
to [Barbara Morehouse](mailto:Barbara Morehouse),  
[BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:BrieflyEditor@grace-stpauls.org).  
Send photos, charts, and  
graphics to [jdbanks@gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

**The deadline for the  
Feb. 2020 issue will be  
Tuesday, Jan. 21.**

## From the Rector

*Continued from Page 1*

the tree. Then we spent 30 minutes inching the tree upward, me pushing it up four inches, my brother grabbing it and lifting another four inches. When the bulk of the tree finally inched up above the 15-foot-high fence, we pushed as hard as we could in our cuffed position, and the baby fell over the top. Then we tied a five dollar bill to a rock, and threw it over the fence. (Trees were cheap 30 years ago.) Back home with the tree, the smell of pine filled the air, and Christmas was saved.

Since that time, Christmas has continued its relentless movement backwards on the calendar. By the time Santa makes his appearance in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade these days, people are already sick of him. Many Americans have their tree up the day after Thanksgiving. Trying to find a live or cut tree the week before Christmas is Mission Impossible. And I know more than a few people who take it down on Christmas day. There are no Christmas trees anymore, only Hanukkah bushes and Advent trees.

You might think that this cultural accommodation is limited to the secular world. But I am hard pressed to find even churches who are not celebrating Christmas in Advent. Even members of your own staff here at GSP, perish the thought, have come clean with me, admitting that they too have been overwhelmed by society, decorating for the holiday in the middle of the season when we are supposed to be patiently waiting for the gift of Jesus in our lives.

So while we might think that this would be the one time a year when our parish would be celebrating a holiday with the rest of the world,

here we are rocking the boat again, not because we are trying to create something new, but because we are desperately attempting to hold on to the ancient tradition. Advent will not be mini-Christmas here. It will be Advent. And Christmas will not end until Epiphany, the 12 days of Christmas!

This year that will be a snap, compared to two years ago, when the Fourth Sunday of Advent fell on Christmas Eve, causing us to change decorations in a few hours. This year though, we have a few days. To make sure we could pull that off two years ago, we tried something new. We had one service of Lessons and Carols (not Christmas carols, Advent carols!) for the Advent Four service in the morning, followed by our first Christmas Service at 5 p.m. later that day.

That early service was such a hit that we did it again last year. This year, we will return to Lessons and Carols on Dec. 22, but this time we will have two services of that beautiful liturgy at our regular times, 7:45 and 10 a.m.

What that means is that this year, you will have plenty of time to decorate your tree on Christmas Eve before coming to one of the evening services, our children's liturgy at 5 p.m. and our stunning candlelight service at 10 p.m., (preceded by Christmas carols at 9:30 p.m.). Then you can enjoy the real Christmas season, taking down your Christmas tree on Epiphany, the last day of Christmas.

An anticipatory and expectation filled Advent to each of you, followed by a blessed and beautiful Christmas season, all of it.



## Garland help, please!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR someone who is comfortable with climbing a tall ladder to put up and later take down the Christmas garland over the north stained glass sanctuary window.

The garland can be hung on either the Sunday afternoon or Monday morning prior to Christmas. It will remain up through Epiphany.

Please contact Jesse Thrall at 296-1241 for additional information.

## Vestry Member Announcement

WE ARE GOING TO HAVE several openings on the Vestry. Are you interested in becoming a Vestry member? Or, do you know someone who might be interested?

Vestry members are legal representatives of our parish. We share leadership responsibilities with our Rector, focusing on our mission and vision while we address issues that are of importance to our congregation and physical plant. New members of the Vestry will be elected during the **Annual Meeting on Jan. 26**.

The Nominations Committee, appointed by the Rector, will prepare a slate of eligible candidates. The Committee will consist of no

fewer than five people, at least two of whom must be Vestry members whose terms expire at the end of this year.

If you would like to be considered as a candidate for the Vestry, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact the Rector through the church office or contact the Senior Warden by email ([pjohnsongsp@gmail.com](mailto:pjohnsongsp@gmail.com)). Vestry candidates will be introduced and answer questions from the congregation at a special **Candidate Forum on Sunday, Jan. 19**, in McBride Hall. There will be a forum following each service.

*Phil Johnson, Senior Warden*

# Advent & Christmas at GSP



## Liturgy Discussion of the Month

By The Rev. Steve Keplinger

**T**HE SEASON OF WAITING is upon us. Anticipation is the name of the game and all of our services at GSP will be built around this theme during the Advent Season.

Here are some of the highlights:

### Dec. 8, The Second Sunday of Advent

Two gigantic events occur this day. For the first time, we will combine the culmination of our Giving & Receiving Season, our big Commitment Sunday, with the person who exemplifies Giving, St. Nicholas. This will be the Sunday we ask everyone in the parish to complete our *planting seeds campaign* by making their estimate of giving for 2020. St. Nick will be on hand at both services to talk about how his giving became the greatest example in history of what Giving & Receiving are all about.

### Dec. 15, The Third Sunday of Advent

We will celebrate the feast day of our Lady of Guadalupe and the Social Gospel of Mary seen through the Magnificat on this day. What does the visitation of Mary to an indigenous Mexican peasant in the 16th century mean to us today? How does it inform our understanding of migrant ministry? Join us on this important Social Justice day at GSP.

### Dec. 15, Las Posadas, 5 p.m.

See Pastor Kimberlee's report on Page 5 for the details on this year's Las Posadas.

### Dec. 15, Blue Christmas, 7 p.m.

This time of year is emotionally difficult for so many of us for so many reasons. The pressure of the culture to be happy at this time of year does not help. This is a service to carry you through the dark night of the soul during this season.

### Dec. 19, Winter Solstice, 6 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the longest night of the year and the return of the sun and the Son. A labyrinth walk, an evening with Paul Winter, and a beautiful liturgy are all part of this blessed night.

### Dec. 22, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The beautiful Lessons and Carols Service returns for a third year, but this time we will do it twice, a simple carol service at 7:45 a.m., followed by a choir led service at 10 a.m. It has been a very popular way for us to transition into...

## Christmas

### Dec. 24, Eve of the Nativity

Our Intergenerational Service focusing on our children, 5 p.m.

The High Service of the Year, Candlelight & Christmas: 9:30 p.m., Carol Sing along; Service begins at 10 p.m.

### Dec. 25, Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

A more intimate service on the biggest day of the year.

### Dec. 29, First Sunday of Christmas, 7:45 & 10 a.m.

More Christmas! More Carols!

### Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, 7 p.m.

Chants for Unity and Compassion. Break in the New Year singing for a new and deeper connection with each other and the entire planet in 2020.

### Jan. 5, 2020, Epiphany, 7:45 & 10 a.m.

The Magi arrive! Christmas is complete!

## Attention Ministry Leaders: Annual Report Deadline!

**T**HE ANNUAL MEETING of Grace St. Paul's is coming: **Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020**, after the 10 a.m. service. And that means it's time for the Annual Report!

Let us know your ministry's people, accomplishments, milestones, dreams. We'd like reports from as many GSP ministries as possible.

If you'd like to share photos of your ministry's activity, that would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine. If you're going to send digital photos, please send photos taken at the highest resolution

your camera provides, without any editing or resizing, in JPG/JPEG format.

Please e-mail your reports (in Word format, if possible) to David Wachter, to [annualreport@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:annualreport@grace-stpauls.org), no later than **Monday, Jan. 6, 2020**. Please do not send anything in Apple's Pages format, however; Microsoft Windows won't open Pages files.

Again, that address is [annualreport@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:annualreport@grace-stpauls.org). This will help make sure that nothing goes astray!

Thank you!

*David Wachter, Annual Report Editor*



## Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis,  
Director of Music

AND AT THAT SEASON of the year, our blessed Jesus did appear” (*This is the truth sent from above*, with a slight redaction). Or, “Christmastime is here by golly, disapproval would be folly” (Tom Lehrer). Your choice. Whether you’re a Ghost of Christmas Present or a Grinch, all must agree that it’s a grand time of year for music.

Given it’s a two-month issue, reflections herein must be brief, which is cool because hey, this is *The Briefly*. For **Advent 1**, we will sing “No Time”, a mash-up of two tradition camp meeting songs arranged by Susan Brumfield; and “Nun komm der Heiden Heiland”, a 16th century arrangement of the chorale tune by Seth Calvesius. On **Advent 2**, we’re doing “Springs in the Desert” by Arthur B. Jennings, a lovely moldy oldie from the dusty boxes, and an arrangement “Lo, how a rose e’er blooming” by Alf S. Houkom. For **Advent 3**, being our celebration of the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe, we will sing “Dios itlaçonantzine” (in Nahuatl, in case you’re wondering) by 16th century Spanish/Mexican composer Hernando Franco; then, to go with the lectionary reading, we’ll sing “Go and tell John” by Lloyd Pfausch. Our tradition for the last couple of years has been to do an Advent Lessons and Carols on **Advent 4**. This year, there will be two services, which will please the 7:45 a.m. folks, who always have to shift their service time. The choir will sing a William Byrd Magnificat and other bits and pieces.

**Christmas Eve** services are at the new usual times of 5 p.m. (Family Service) and 9:30 p.m. (Carol Service)/10 p.m. (Festival Eucharist). There will be no choir anthems at the family service. Choir offerings during the carol service will include “Evergreen” by Daniel Pinkham and a reprise of “Breath of Heaven,” with Wendy Pipentacos, soloist, accompanied by Jane Click, piano, and Rose Todaro, violin. Wes Hunter will join us if he makes it back from his workshop in Chicago in time. Due in that day, but anything can happen! The music for the Festival Eucharist will be particularly blessed this year because Armen Dirtadian is offering a work he composed called “O have you seen the little Christ child?”, which he and the amazing mezzo Korby Myrick will sing with the Grace St. Paul’s Choir. For communion, we will sing an arrangement of one of the traditional English carol arrangements from Carols for Choirs, perhaps The Sussex Carol, arr. David Willcocks.

On **Christmas 1**, Ann Stephens and Susan Marcus, mezzoids, have generously volunteered to provide music for the offertory and communion anthems on a Sunday the rest of the choir has off. They will sing “Laudamus te” from Vivaldi’s other Gloria and “Abends will ich schlafen gehn,” otherwise known as the Sandman duet from *Hänsel und Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck (no, not the pop singer), which has somehow become associated with Christmas. They will be accompanied by Rosalie Cassiday, as David Wachter takes a much-needed day off.

The **Chants for Peace** service established by Kristopher Lindquist has been a beloved and well attended way to ring in the New Year at Grace St. Paul’s for many years. Since Kristopher’s untimely death, Jane Click has selected and played his chants. This year’s service, entitled *Chants for Unity and Compassion*, is on **Dec. 31** from 7-8:30 p.m. in the chancel. May 2020 bring us peace, unity, compassion, and national healing.

**Epiphany** will be celebrated on Jan. 5, which is really **Christmas 2**, so the anthems will still have a Christmas theme, plus kings. For the offertory, we will sing “Past three a clock” by John Rutter, with a lovely carol from Hymnal 1940, “Saw you never in the twilight,” for communion. For **Epiphany 1** (The baptism of Christ), we will sing James Biery’s “The waters of life” for the offertory and “The blessed son of God,” from *Hodie*, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. For **Epiphany 2**, our celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, our offertory will be “This little light of mine,” a spiritual arranged by Joel Raney. For communion, we will sing Harold Friedell’s beloved “Draw us in the Spirit’s tether.” It’s real choir comfort food. For **Epiphany 3**, Annual Meeting Sunday, we will have a little *Messiah* fest, in which “His yoke is easy and his burden light” (unless you’re a choir member needing oxygen after one of the melismas), but fear not, “He shall feed his flock/Come unto him, all ye that are heavy laden.” Both of course by G. F. Handel, offertory and communion respectively.

I hope for you all peace, comfort, and flexibility this Christmas season and all good things in the coming year. May your lights shine undimmed! And may your house be visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present and not the Grinch.

Peace,  
*Christina*



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
—John 1:1,4-5

**D**EAR FAMILIES,  
I pray you are experiencing peace and simple joy as we begin the season of Advent. I've found an interesting Advent Devotional called "In Light & Darkness" based on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. It is an intergenerational study for all ages focusing on the themes of "light" and "darkness" marveling how the earth experiences both of these during the year with the summer and winter solstices. Deconstructing how Christianity has focused on light as good and darkness as bad, Barbara Brown Taylor asks this simple question, "What can light possibly mean without dark?" This deep study includes spaces for coloring, doodling and reflection. Check it out at [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

We have wonderful offerings this month to celebrate the season and the coming of Jesus in the manger. May these Holy Days bring you peace and simple joy!

### Sunday School

Each Sunday of Advent we will begin Sunday School by singing Christmas carols with Jane Click. We continue with the Love First project and the Christmas story of Jesus' birth including making wonderful crafts such as graham cracker nativity scenes, angels, a craft to be given away, concluding with a birthday party for Jesus! Through Jesus' example by showing love to others we are giving the greatest gift we can to Jesus.

### Other Important Dates:

Dec. 29 & Jan. 5—No Sunday School  
Jan. 12—We begin our Love Neighbor unit!

### St. Nicolas Day—Sunday, Dec. 8

We will celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicolas, Bishop of Smyrna, Sunday, Dec. 8. Saint Nicolas is known as Nicolas the Wonderworker and his habit of secret gift-giving. Children are invited to lay out their shoes in the narthex to receive a gift from St. Nicholas.

### Las Posadas—Saturday, Dec. 14, 5 p.m.

We are partnering again this year with Pr. Mateo and Annette Chavez of Iglesia Luterana de San Juan Bautista. We will journey from place to place around the GSP campus singing in English and Spanish looking for a room for Mary and Joseph to spend the night. Once the "innkeepers" of McBride Hall allow us to enter,

we will have a party with a delicious home-made Mexican meal and the traditional piñata filled with treats and sweets! We will also watch a wonderful video of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego based on the events in 1531, near the hill of Tepeyac, Mexico.

### Christmas Eve Pageant—Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

Again this year we are planning a pick-up pageant, for a fun and simple play for the children! Mistakes and confusion are expected so the intention is to put everyone at ease including the congregation. The family service begins Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

### Youth Group

We are still looking for a couple of leaders! Our goal is to offer a Youth Group gathering every Sunday at 10am, just like the younger children, and then join families for the Eucharist. I've found an intriguing curriculum called "The Teen Compass: Faith and Wellness" that includes the following topics: spirituality, stress resilience, relationships, rest and play, handling emotions, organization, school and work, and care for the body. Scripture will support and guide us. Your commitment is only once a month and no experience is necessary!

### Centering Prayer

Especially during this busy time of year, we need to take time to "rest in God." We meet every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the chancel. Newcomers are always welcome, simply come at 12 noon or so for a brief instruction. All are welcome!



If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
For Christ, with you,

*Pastor Kimberlee*

520-327-6857 / 970-390-9729  
[pastorkimberlee@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:pastorkimberlee@grace-stpauls.org)

## Parish Focus

### Shari Murphy: Savoring Variety

By Ann Schlumberger

**I**F YOU SEE A WOMAN on the GSP Campus wearing a headband decorated with imaginative items, she's Shari Murphy. On the October day I interviewed her, I watched her as she rummaged through the backseat of her '66 VW Bug for the perfect headpiece: she entered Eegees wearing a headband with batwings, complemented with bat earrings.

Shari recalls that she started collecting such headbands after her sister gave her a frog hat, which she wore to a church meeting. When she noticed people smiling at her, she decided, "If I can make just one person smile or laugh who wasn't going to that day, I have done my job. In turn, people's smiling makes me smile." She has over a hundred such headpieces—all gifts or found in thrift stores.

Shari, born in Kansas in 1948, was named *Sharilyn*

(rhymes with *Marilyn*) by her older sister, Linda Lea. Shari is very close to her sister, who was a forensic chemist for the Witchita Police Department. Other than Shari's three cats, Linda Lea is the only living family member that Shari has.

Church was the center of her family's social and religious life. They attended an American Baptist congregation until she was three, then with four other families started their own congregation in the Murphys' single-car garage. That group grew in numbers until they built the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church. The new congregation was "very accepting," and their

youth group partnered its activities with those of youth groups from other denominations. Her father served as the church's head usher, and Shari has continued in the usher role here at GSP. Being an usher helps her cheer people up and lets her move around during the service.

Shari's father, Newell, was one of the first data processors, working for Boeing during World War II. Afterwards he did data processing for a bank at night, and she remembers playing with keypunch cards and boxes as a child. Her dad would give Shari and her teenage friends night tours of the bank basement with its computer the size of an entire room. He would program it to run off sheets of paper, with holes punched to form designs on each sheet, for the girls. Playfulness is a part of her family's culture.

Shari's mother, Iva Mae, was a stay-at-home mom who produced "high-quality" creative projects—making gorgeous clothes, corsages, flower arrangements, pheasant feather hats, ceramics, and decorated cakes. Iva Mae's ceramics hobby turned into a 25-year national business.

Shari's dad designed and built the cabinets and workspaces for his wife's projects.

Always very physically active, Shari was a cheerleader in the eighth grade and a member of the drill team in junior college. Early on she decided that she was too independent to get married or have children. In 1971, she moved to Tucson because she had heard that "it was sunny 97 percent of the time." She loves being able to be outside year-round, swimming and lifting weights daily, pool sliding, swinging in the parks, and dancing. She still climbs trees. This woman just must keep moving.

Shari's father instilled in her a strong work ethic and told her that all workers need to be respected. He frequently stated that "every job is a job that needs to be done by someone." Her first job at 15 was in a zoo concession stand. She learned a lot about people and responsibility by working in bars and restaurants. She especially enjoyed driving jobs delivering flowers, pizzas, city directories, etc. She has cleaned houses for 40 years. Not surprisingly, Shari has crewed for a ballooning group. She just loves the variety and the freedom of being self-employed!

Shari's mother was a "super volunteer," and

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Shari Murphy

## Parish Focus

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the list of her daughter's volunteer activities is long and varied. Shari has been a volunteer at Tucson's historic Valley of the Moon since 1982 and is an usher for Arizona Theater Company and the Fox. She feels huge accomplishment for being on the "dirt" crews who restored the Fox and Rialto Theaters.

She has volunteered, or is currently volunteering, for TIHAN, Tucson Meet Yourself, the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Womankraft, the Diaper Bank, and the zoo. She wraps gifts for Home Instead elder care. A firm believer in the "redistribution of needed things," Shari takes GSP's Sunday flowers to Villa Maria Care Home and collects the leftover food from GSP functions to give to people raising chickens. Every Wednesday she scans the grocery sale ads for items she can buy for the GSP food pantry, and she haunts thrift shops and Big Lots stores for bargains that she can buy and give away. For example, she buys cheap towels and blankets for GSP member Molly Johnson to distribute as bedding at Pima Animal Control.

Shari splits her church membership between Rincon Congregational Church and Grace St. Paul's. At Rincon, she ushers, picks up bread for Casa Maria sandwich making, and is on the Rincon buildings and grounds committee. Shari was initially attracted to GSP because she liked that the church held a party after Christmas Eve Midnight Mass to "actually celebrate Christ's birth." Also, she appreciates the wide variety of GSP's community involvement.

Celebrating life is key to Shari's existence. Every five years she treats herself to Disneyland on her birthday. For Shari, an energetic, generous woman, variety—and helping others—are the spice of her life.



The Women of Artisans Beyond Borders, GSP migrant Arts ministry

### Bordando Esperanza: Embroidering Hope

**A**RTISANS BEYOND BORDERS, a Grace St. Paul's migrant ministry supporting Latin American families to create Heritage Arts, restores grace and agency through the work of the hands, forges friendship across borders, and provides a small income for families while they wait in shelters in Nogales, Mexico, to apply for asylum.

Each original, hand-stitched work of Art is a vote for beauty, faith, and self-determinism in the middle of perilous migration and family displacement.

Look for their wonderful *Mantas*—textile centerpieces—for sale Sundays through December in McBride Hall after the 10 a.m. service.

**Email:**  
[contact@ArtisansBeyondBorders.org](mailto:contact@ArtisansBeyondBorders.org)

## Migrant Ministry Report

**O**N SUNDAY, Nov. 24, Rocio Calderon, coordinator of the Casa Mariposa Visitation Program at the Eloy Detention Center, spoke about the lifeline that visits and letters offer to people who have been detained by ICE in this private Arizona detention center. Participants had the opportunity to write Christmas cards to detained migrants. Rocio is a Bolivian grandmother who is very happy to be reunited with her daughter and grandbaby after being incarcerated for two years in Eloy. She dedicated her life to the visitation program after receiving much needed support from the program during her detention.

On **Sunday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m.**, the Migrant Ministry will give an update on the **2nd Annual Border Summit**, and the way forward for migrant support over the coming year. The border offers the church a unique opportunity for

ministry. Faith groups along the border have responded to this situation in different ways.

The 2nd Annual Border Ministries Summit (Nov. 21-23) provided an opportunity to share information, build partnerships and increase awareness of the important ministries taking place on both sides of the border. The keynote speaker was Dr. Miguel A. de la Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo.

Migrant Ministry leaders Deacon Nancy Meister and Margie King will deliver an update on the Summit as well as the new position of Missioner for Border Ministry, Rev. David Chavez. The discussion will focus on the best way that GSP members can support migrants, immigrants, and refugees in 2020.



**T**HE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE is a community-wide tradition that was started at Grace St. Paul's by the Rev Gordon McBride in 2001. It is a special quiet and meditative liturgy for those experiencing loss, pain, or loneliness during the holiday season. The music and prayers are designed to be comforting and to lift your spirits. It is open to all in the Tucson community who would like to be with others experiencing loss of a loved one, be it, a child, a parent, a partner, spouse, friend or pet. Some people come each year to remember their loved one even though their loss may have been many years ago. For some, their loss may have been very recent.

There is a candle-lighting ritual where we remember those persons who have been loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. People may feel the loss of health, loss of a job, loss of a relationship, loss of a pet. People may feel alienated from the culture around them because they are depressed and not joyful. And this year some may feel depressed about tragic losses due to gun shootings and wildfires.

The service offers several opportunities for healing: lighting candles, writing a message, listening to music or just sitting quietly. As we express our grief, we can become reconciled to it. We never get over our loss. But hope emerges. Pastoral care givers will be present to listen, offer support and provide resources.

Join us for hot cider and cookies after the service.

— *Deacon Nancy Meister*

## Greening Our Christmas

By *Angel Wang*

**D**URING ADVENT and Christmas, we as Christians anticipate and welcome the coming birth of Jesus. This Christmas season, let's adopt greener, kinder customs that will neither burden the planet nor stress our psyches with holiday shopping.

A recently-published study shows that "between 60-80 percent of the impacts on the planet come from household consumption... the stuff we consume—from food to knick-knacks—is responsible for up to 60 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and between 50 and 80 percent of total land, material, and water use."

How might we step aside from the hubbub and waste of the commercial holiday season?

- **Connect with the Season:** Savor the seasonal changes; light candles, decorate a Winter Table, take part in Advent, Christmas season traditions.
- **Slow Down:** Stop running in circles, allow yourself to decline to over-commit, and focus your attention on details that we so often miss. Revel in the smells of baking or the sounds of bells. Allow the Spirit of the holiday to envelop you in the warmth and joy it has to offer.
- **Connect With Others:** Make time for family traditions or create new ones, share bounty with others, or volunteer to serve



Christmas dinner in shelters or soup kitchens.

- **Less Really Is More:** Spark joy with fewer and more meaningful gifts, forego an excess of "stuff" that will end up in yard sales come July. Give the gift of charity, donate to a local charity, or overseas in the name of your loved ones.
- **Remember to be Earth-friendly:** Keep your Christmas decor simple and sustainable; use a potted Christmas tree, rather than an artificial one. Avoid gifts made of plastic, choose sustainable materials like wood, hemp, cotton, silk. Avoid battery powered

objects. Replace old Christmas lights with LED ones, and use a timer. Make your own Christmas cards—store-bought ones consume a huge amount of natural resources for a throw-away item.

- **Shop closer to home:** Consider twice before purchasing items made halfway around the world and delivered overnight by Amazon. It's been estimated that if shipping were a country, it would be responsible for 60% of global greenhouse emissions.

By greening our Christmas we will be giving a precious gift to all who inhabit God's Creation.

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH: SUNDAYS @ 9 &amp; 11:45 a.m.

**Christ the King (Part 2)****Sunday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

In Advent we remember that Christ the King will come again in his glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. This class will recall that basic doctrine and also show many images of the cosmic Christ the King.

Presented by **Chuck Dickson**, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry team. Chuck is a retired history teacher and a popular GSP presenter.

**A More Sustainable Christmas****Sunday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

The holidays are wonderful. They can put us back in touch with our faith and spirituality, bring families and friends together, and generate good will among people, but they can also generate debt, stress, and a whole lot of garbage. This class will focus on some ways to “accentuate the positive” by doing our best to “eliminate the negative,” especially the waste that so often characterizes our celebrations.

**Victoria Stefani** has attended Grace St. Paul's since 2013; she is currently chair of the Adult Spiritual Formation team. Before retiring, she taught writing and literature at the University of Arizona.

**“I’ll Have What She’s Having”: Evangelism in 2020 (Part 1 of 2)****Sunday, Dec. 8, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

Episcopalians tend to shy away instinctively from the idea of evangelism: we may think of revivals, altar calls, and the conversion of non-believers, whether they’re receptive or not. But “evangel” simply means “good news.” Shouldn’t Christians want to share that good news, also known as the Gospel? Presiding Bishop Curry, for one, thinks so! This two-part discussion, on Dec. 8 and Jan. 12, will examine the roots of evangelism in scripture and the *Book of Common Prayer*; what it demands on our part; and what forms it might take in our current culture.

**Susan Erickson** is a candidate for the vocational diaconate, class of 2020. She is a parishioner at St. Philip's at the Hills but is currently doing her 6-month internship at GSP. Susan is a retired lawyer; before she went into law she was a professor of German language and literature. She and her husband Jim Dannenberg spend about five months of the year in Jackson, Wyo., where she worships at St. John's. Adding the GSP internship to that and St. Philip's, she feels as if she's experiencing the breadth and diversity of the Episcopal Church!

**Migrant Ministry Update****Sunday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Much has happened since the last update in September. Come to hear the latest news on how the ministry continues to assist migrants and what more we can do. There will also be a report from the Diocese of Arizona's recent 2nd Annual Border Ministries Summit.

Presented by **Deacon Nancy Meister** and **Margie King**, both long active in justice initiatives for immigrants along the border of Mexico and the U.S., most recently with the sheltering of migrants here in Tucson.

**NO SUNDAY CLASSES ON DEC. 22 & 29****Being Green: The Movement Toward Zero-Waste Living****Sunday, Jan. 5, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

Just a simple number: the EPA estimates the average American creates 4.4 pounds of trash/day, more than 250 million tons in a year. Only a third of that is recycled. But it's not necessarily difficult to reduce waste. We can accomplish a lot with some small lifestyle changes, and the beginning of a new year is a good time to start. In this class we'll discuss not only why we should make that effort, but also some concrete strategies for how to achieve the goal of becoming much less wasteful.

**Victoria Stefani** has attended Grace St. Paul's since 2013; she is currently chair of the Adult Spiritual Formation team. Before retiring, she taught writing and literature at the University of Arizona.

**The Baptism of Our Lord****Sunday, Jan. 12, 9 a.m., Bloom Room**

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany we will look specifically at St. John's baptism of Jesus and, more generally, at the whole idea of Holy Baptism.

Presented by **Chuck Dickson**, a member of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry team. Chuck is a retired history teacher and a popular GSP presenter.

**“I’ll Have What She’s Having”: Evangelism in 2020 (Part 2 of 2)****Sunday, Jan. 12, 11:45 a.m., Bloom Room**

Episcopalians tend to shy away instinctively from the idea of evangelism: we may think of revivals, altar calls, and the conversion of non-believers, whether they're receptive or not. But “evangel” simply means “good news.” Shouldn't Christians want to share that good news, also known as the Gospel? Presiding Bishop Curry, for one, thinks so! This second of a two-part discussion (the first was December 8) will continue to examine the roots of evangelism in scripture and the *Book of Common Prayer*; what it demands on our part; and what forms it might take in our current culture.

**Susan Erickson** is a candidate for the vocational diaconate, class of 2020. She is a parishioner at St. Philip's at the Hills but is currently doing her 6-month internship at GSP. Susan is a retired lawyer; before she went into law she was a professor of German language and literature. She and her husband Jim Dannenberg spend about five months of the year in Jackson, Wyoming, where she worships at St. John's. Adding the GSP internship to that and St. Philip's, she feels as if she's experiencing the breadth and diversity of the Episcopal Church!

**NO SUNDAY CLASSES ON JAN. 19 & 26**

## MAKING CONNECTIONS: SMALL GROUPS @ GSP

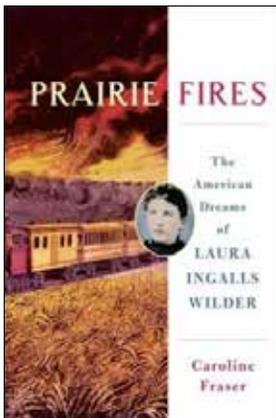


### Third Friday Film Series: The Man Who Invented Christmas (2017)

Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

*The Man Who Invented Christmas* tells of the magical journey that led to the creation of Ebenezer Scrooge (Christopher Plummer), Tiny Tim and other classic characters from *A Christmas Carol*. The film shows how Charles Dickens (Dan Stevens) mixed real life inspirations with his vivid imagination to conjure up unforgettable characters and a timeless tale, forever changing the holiday season into the celebration we know today. This is a film for all ages!

Hosted by *Victoria and Joe Stefani*.



### GSP Readers Group: Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder by Caroline Fraser

Friday, Jan. 10, 9:30-11 a.m., Bloom Room

Millions of readers of *Little House on the Prairie* believe they know Laura Ingalls—the pioneer girl who survived blizzards and near-starvation on the Great Plains, and the woman who wrote the famous autobiographical books. But the true saga of her life has never been fully told. Now, drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser masterfully fills in the gaps in Wilder's biography. The *Little House* books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Wilder's real life was harder and grittier than that, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. Spanning nearly a century of epochal change, from the Indian Wars to the Dust Bowl, Wilder's dramatic life provides a unique perspective on American history and our national mythology of self-reliance. With fresh insights and new discoveries, *Prairie Fires*, winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day.

For more information, please contact *Victoria Stefani* at 520-661-6772.



### Third Friday Film Series: Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949)

Friday, Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room

The quintessential British comedy, director Robert Hamer's fiendishly funny *Kind Hearts and Coronets* stands as one of the most wickedly black comedies ever made. Dennis Price is sublime as an embittered young commoner determined to avenge his mother's unjust disinheritance by ascending to her family's dukedom. Unfortunately, eight relatives, all played by the incomparable Alec Guinness, must be eliminated before he can do so.

Hosted by *Victoria and Joe Stefani*.

### Reading with the Spirit: A Light So Lovely: The Spiritual Legacy of Madeleine L'Engle (2018)

by Sarah Arthur

Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m., Bloom Room

Beloved author Madeleine L'Engle, and Newbery winner for her novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, was known the world round for her imaginative spirit and stories. She was also known to spark controversy—too Christian for some, too unorthodox for others. Somewhere in the middle was a complex woman whose embrace of paradox has much to say to a new generation of readers today. Author Sarah Arthur paints a vivid portrait of this enigmatic icon's spiritual legacy, starting with her inner world and expanding into fresh reflections of her writing for readers today. A vibrant, imaginative read, *A Light So Lovely* pulls back the curtain to illuminate L'Engle's creative journey, her persevering faith, and the inspiring, often unexpected ways these two forces converged. "A *Light So Lovely* is an engaging and deeply satisfying book." (*Christianity Today*) This book group meets each month to focus on reading designed to stretch our spiritual and theological muscles. Bring your coffee. All are welcome!

Contact *Catherine Penn Williams*, spiritual pilgrim, psychotherapist, and longtime group leader at GSP, at 520-275-8478 for more information.

### Cultivating Spiritual Literacy:

#### Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Bloom Room

NOTE: No meeting on Dec. 23 or 30. Weekly meetings resume on Jan. 6

Can we see the world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wildflower? How do we cultivate spiritual literacy, the qualities of mind and heart that enable us to read the sacred in ordinary life? How do we expand our awareness of the presence of the spiritual within all aspects of existence where no moment, no thing, is to be excluded? Join us for this long running weekly small group discussion as we use multi-media to explore the intersections between our own spiritual journeys, religion, and culture. The topics vary each week and each session stands on its own. There's always a lively discussion and all are welcome. No registration is necessary.

Facilitated by *Catherine Penn Williams*.

### New Year's Eve: Chants for Unity & Compassion

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7-8:30 p.m., in the Chancel

Show us the way of compassion, the way of joy and peace...

Join us for a GSP tradition as we cross the threshold into a new year with hope in our hearts. This New Year's we will gather together in the church to sing chants for unity and compassion—for ourselves, for our neighbors, and for the world.

Accompanied by piano, the chants are simple and easy-to-learn, expressing our desire for "the peace of God which passeth all understanding" and for a world in which all beings may be happy and free from suffering. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

*Jane Click*, longtime GSP pianist, will lead the group in singing the "contemporary, inclusive and ecumenical" chants composed by the late Kristopher Lindquist.



**Between the Lines: Scholarship & Depth Psychology Meet Sunday's Lectionary**  
**Thursdays, 10 a.m., Bloom Room**

Fr. Richard Mallory leads this lectionary Bible study on Thursday mornings. Besides providing a solid approach to biblical studies in general, this class also offers a depth psychological take on the passage at hand. We encourage you to attend a meeting to get a taste of the class and to help you decide if this group is for you. No registration is necessary.

Fr. Richard Mallory is the Associate Rector at Grace St Pauls.



**Centering Prayer**

**Thursdays, 12:30 p.m., Chancel**

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with God through the silence of prayer? Would you like to "rest in God?" This group meets for twenty minutes of prayer followed by a reading from *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating. If this is your first time attending, please come at noon for a brief instruction.

Contact Pastor Kimberlee at 520-327-6857 if you have questions.

**Friday Morning Bible Study: The Psalms**

**1st & 3rd Fridays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bloom Room**

The Psalms, also known as the songs of David, are an integral part of both Judaism and Christianity. What did they say to the peoples of biblical times and how did they say it? What do they have to say to us today? Join us as we explore the language and messages of the Psalms and their timeless impact on culture.

For more information contact Victoria Stefani, 520-661-6772 or [vstefani@email.arizona.edu](mailto:vstefani@email.arizona.edu).

**Java Jive: Coffee & Conversation**

**Saturdays, 9-11 a.m., Epic Cafe, 745 N. 4th Ave. (at University Blvd.)**

Want to meet and get to know folks in a relaxed and friendly environment? All are welcome to join this long-running gathering that meets every Saturday morning for coffee and conversation. Come join us!

## SPIRIT PLAYERS' FIRST FRIDAY PLAY READINGS



**Chekhov Comedies round out play-reading Year**

**Friday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room**

The GSP Spirit Players' First Friday Play Readings round out the year with comedy! "An Evening of Chekhov Comedies" is a compilation of adaptations of Anton Chekhov's comic short stories by three American playwrights: Wendy Wasserstein, David Mamet, and Neil Simon. The plays are tied together by the character of an unnamed Writer, meant to represent Chekhov himself. He suffers from writer's block and his own artistic temperament as he introduces to the audience several of his stories.

The stories include "The Drowned Man" in which an entrepreneurial tramp pretends to drown himself to make money, calling what he does "maritime entertainment," "Vint"

a card game in which players bet using government officials in lieu of cards, "A Defenseless Creature"—a woman with a nervous disorder harasses an ill banker to extort money for her injured husband, and "The Arrangement," where a father provides an unusual gift as a rite of passage for his 19-year old son.

Please join us in enjoying group of short, comic one-acts and the lively discussion following. *There will be particularly festive holiday intermission snacks.*

at the Ascot races? Does her father try to sell her to Higgins? And what of the ending? Will she and Higgins end up together?

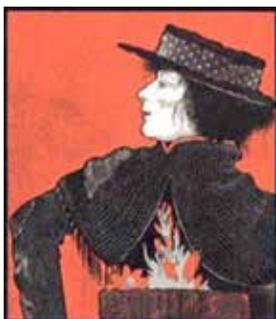
If these questions bring to mind the musical "My Fair Lady," it is because "Pygmalion" is the play on which the musical is based. The characters and theme have not changed. But this is a play with wordplay, very much about language and how it marks us and defines us. Eliza, the "guttersnipe" who learns to talk and act like a lady—and who also learns how to get "a little of my own back."

Please share in this reading with us; there is often a lively discussion following.

Attendees may read if they wish or participate as "audience"; scripts are provided.

Sharon McKenzie and Nanalee Raphael are the facilitators, both long-time theatre aficionados. This script is suitable for all ages.

There is no admission charge, however a donation of canned food such as hearty soup, ravioli, chili or tuna for the Joseph's Food Pantry at Grace St. Paul's would be greatly appreciated.



**Shaw's 'Pygmalion' marks the New Year's changes**

**Friday, Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m., Bloom Room**

At the start of a new year don't we all resolve to change ourselves in some way? To start off 2020 for the GSP Spirit Players' First Friday Play Reading, we'll read about a total makeover for one woman in "Pygmalion," by George Bernard Shaw. Named after a Greek mythological sculptor and first produced onstage in 1913, this story and characters are familiar to modern audiences.

Eliza Doolittle, a flower seller, is plucked from the streets of London by Henry Higgins, a teacher of phonetics. Higgins makes a bet with his companion, Colonel Pickering, that he can transform her speech, movement, etiquette, and indeed, all aspects of her life so that she can pass in upper class society as a "genteel lady". Higgins, the phonetics expert whose encyclopedic knowledge of how words are formed doesn't keep him from using them as blunt-force weapons. Higgins' use of techniques that border on torture transform Eliza? Does she pass for well-bred

Grace St. Paul's: A Progressive Community—Loving God, Serving Others, Journeying Together

WEEKLY SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

- SUNDAYS**  
7:45 a.m., Holy Communion  
9 a.m., Coffee & Conversation  
8:45 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., Holy Communion  
10 a.m., Sunday School  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Youth Group
- MONDAYS**  
10 a.m., Spiritual Formation  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
- TUESDAYS**  
6 p.m., Evening Prayer & Communion  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation
- WEDNESDAYS**  
7 a.m., Holy Communion  
5 p.m., Children & Family Karate
- THURSDAYS**  
10:30 a.m., *Between the Lines*  
12:30 p.m., Centering Prayer  
6 p.m., Spirit Now—An Emerging Worship Experience. First Thursday of the month: **SPirit SONG**  
7 p.m., AZ Welcomes Refugees (first Thursday only)
- SATURDAYS**  
8:30 a.m., Saturday Java Jive  
9 a.m., Altar Guild

What's Happening in December 2019...

- 1st 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
9 a.m., *Christ the King*
- 2nd** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 3rd** 5 p.m., Ecumenical Lessons & Carols
- 4th** 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets  
7 p.m., **Green Church Committee**
- 5th** 6 p.m., **SPirit SONG**
- 6th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**  
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play-Reading
- 7th** 8 a.m., SAAF Holiday Family Day
- 8th 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
*Giving & Receiving In-gathering*  
9 a.m., *A More Sustainable Christmas*  
11:45 a.m., *Evangelism 2020*
- 9th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 11th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 14th** 5 p.m., *Las Posadas*
- 15th 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
9 a.m., *Migrant Ministry Update*  
6 p.m., **Blue Christmas**
- 16th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 18th** 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets
- 19th** 6 p.m., *Winter Solstice Celebration*
- 20th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**  
6:30 p.m., **Third Friday Film**
- 22nd 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team
- 24th CHRISTMAS EVE** 🏠  
*Parish Office closes at 12 noon*  
9 a.m., Primavera Meals Group  
5 p.m., **Intergenerational Service**  
7:30 p.m., **Christmas Eve Reception**  
9:30 p.m., **Carols**  
10 p.m., **Christmas Eve Eucharist**
- 25th CHRISTMAS DAY** 🌲  
*Parish Office, Social Service Ministry, & Joseph's Pantry Closed*  
10 a.m., **Service with Carols**
- 26th** *Parish Office & Social Services Ministry Closed*

- 29th 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
- 31st NEW YEAR'S EVE** 🎆  
7 p.m., New Year's Eve Chants



...and in January 2020

- 1st NEW YEAR'S DAY** 🎆  
*Parish Office & Social Service Ministry closed*
- 2nd** 6 p.m., **SPirit SONG**
- 3rd** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**  
6:30 p.m., Spirit Players Play Reading
- 5th EPIPHANY SUNDAY**  
9 a.m., *Being Green*
- 6th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 8th** 12 noon, Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 10th** 9:30 a.m., **GSP Readers Group**
- 12th** 9 a.m., *The Baptism of Our Lord*  
11:45 a.m., *Evangelism 2020*
- 13th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 15th** 6 p.m., Flutes for Vets
- 17th** 10:30 a.m., **Bible Study**  
6:30 p.m., **Third Friday Film**
- 18th** 10 a.m., *Reading with the Spirit*
- 19th** 9 & 11:45 a.m., **Vestry Candidate Forum**
- 20th MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY** 🗣️  
10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 25th** 9 a.m., Southern Arizona Friends of Jung
- 26th** 11:45 a.m., Annual Meeting  
1 p.m., Primavera cooking team
- 27th** 10 a.m., *Sharing Spiritual Journeys*
- 28th** 9 a.m., Primavera meals group  
6:30 p.m., **VESTRY MEETING**