

# The Briefly

August 2011

The monthly newsletter for the community of  
**Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
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## Rector's Letter

There is an aphorism that often pops up in ministerial clergy gatherings, especially those that center around clergy wellness. It goes something like, "Yes, but who is going to take care of us when we are in need? Who is going to pastor the pastor?"

The last few weeks have very simply been the most difficult time in Jean's and my life. The amount of personal and community trauma we have faced is almost beyond measure. We have had a string of difficult issues to face, but obviously, the deaths of Karen English and Adrienne Gossard made all those other situations seem so trivial. As I said to the hundreds gathered at Adrienne's service, we are going to recover from this, but for some of us, life is never going to be the same. Adrienne was not only like a daughter to us, but she was the epitome of what I have been preaching about the last ten years. She was also one of my favorite people on earth.

During this extremely difficult time, all of you have not only answered for us, "Who is going to pastor the pastor?", but you have lived it. In the midst of our pain, Jean and I have been overwhelmed by your love and support. Your cards and flowers and food and compassion have buoyed us and inspired us. A few months ago, we had that wonderful service of mutual ministry. During the last few weeks, you have lived into that symbol so well, it has relieved our pain and filled us with love and pride for being a part of this wonderful community.

We cannot thank you enough for being the Body of Christ for us. Thanks to you, we are going to heal and we are going to continue to work together to bring the love you have shown to us to all of Tucson and beyond. Thank you all so much.

Shalom,  
*Steve +*



GSP's kids are excited about the new interactive hands-on Children's Eucharist which takes place every fourth Sunday of the month. See Page 5.



In June, GSP was invited to experience the sacred saguaro harvest with Stella Tucker, the harvester for the Tohono O'odham nation, on her family's ancestral camp. Stella is one of the last people harvesting saguaro fruit in the traditional way, and has the last remaining active camp on what is now Saguaro National Monument. This was an incredibly rare opportunity to learn the indigenous sacred traditions of our area, and a beautiful way to experience creation. All who participated found the trip to be deeply meaningful and profound, from learning how to pick the fruit to ending the harvest with a taste of the most sacred thing in all O'odham culture: saguaro wine.

## Senior Warden's Report

### *Practicing Good Spiritual Hygiene*

By Martha P.L. Whitaker

For the past few weeks, many parishioners have asked me, "How are Father Steve and Jean doing?" As you read in Steve's Rector's Letter, he and Jean are beginning to heal, in large part thanks to all of you. Steve+ thanked us for being the Body of Christ to him and Jean. I believe Steve+ was specifically referring to Paul, who said:

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

—I Corinthians 12:12, 26–27

And indeed we are such a body. One of the many things I love about GSP is that we are a remarkably resilient and supportive community that helps each other heal. In fact, GSP has such a magnificently strong community of caregivers that I think it's important to talk about a particular aspect of caregiving. In his *Rector's Letter*, Steve+ referred to the question, "Who's going to pastor the pastor?" Similarly, we need to ask ourselves, "Who takes care of the caretakers?" As we as a community move through our healing and grief from the losses of too many dear friends and parishioners these past few months, I urge us to be gentle with each other and ourselves.

Part of our responsibility of being the body of Christ to each other is to ensure that we can serve others by maintaining our own health. There is a very good reason why flight attendants remind adults to put on their own oxygen masks first, before assisting their child (or anyone else in need of assistance). Practicing the metaphor of putting on one's oxygen mask first is not a selfish luxury: it is practicing good spiritual hygiene.

One aspect of good spiritual hygiene is volunteering, and GSP certainly needs and welcomes volunteers of all kinds and in many ministries. It can be powerfully rewarding and fulfilling to be part of a community who affects meaningful change, who provides care and service to others. By all means, volunteer, and become a more active part of our fabulous GSP community! But good spiritual hygiene also includes, by necessity, taking care of yourself so that you can continue to do the work God is calling you to do. Later in this issue you will find an article that highlights the variety of wellness opportunities offered at GSP. I encourage you to take the time to explore them for yourself, and experience different ways in which you can be spiritually fed.

God is with us. God is present here. Let's make sure we take care of ourselves so that we can hear God's call, so that we can continue to be the body of Christ to each other, and allow God to care for us, too.

# Proposal to Update Grace St. Paul's Name

By Martha P.L. Whitaker,  
Senior Warden

The Vestry is initiating a brief parish-wide discernment process to consider informally adding the words, “and Spiritual Center” to GSP’s official name. Over the next few weeks, the proposal (below) will be available on our website and in the *Bulletins*. We invite congregational feedback via email to me, via the GSP facebook page, or via written comments that can be left in my mailbox in the church office. A status report and an opportunity for additional commentary will be available during the next Parish Wellness meeting on Sept. 18.

The new designation would not change our legal name. Rather, it would authorize something like a “doing business as” (DBA) name, under which GSP’s operations could be conducted and presented to the world. The modernized version of our name would gradually replace the old designation, and be used immediately in advertising, Sunday bulletins, GSP’s Welcome Statement, and on our website, Facebook and MeetUp.com pages, and other social media.

The proposed new name:

- retains our historic Episcopal roots while simultaneously extending an invitation to non-Sunday worshippers.
- supports the message that we are individually and collectively on a spiritual journey.
- may attract those turned off by organized religion and helps defuse the institutionalization associated with a church.
- is a useful marketing tool to help us grow.

The use of the term, “spiritual center” is not foreign to our Episcopal tradition. Some current examples include:

- “The Center for Spiritual Development” (The Rev. Canon Marianne Wells Borg [Mrs. Marcus Borg], Director) at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon.
- “St. James Episcopal Church Center for Spiritual Formation” (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) “strives to offer programs that will enable you to enrich your feelings of self and also encourage you to reach out to others with a renewed energy.”
- The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

operates “Peterkin, a Spiritual Center for Christian Growth & Ministry.”

- The Gray Center, “the spiritual center of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.”
- St. John’s Church (New London, Wisconsin) operates as “St. John’s Community Episcopal Church and Center for Inner Peace.”
- Buen Pastor in the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic is a “nutrition, education, health, and spiritual center” of the Episcopal Order of the Sisters of Transfiguration.
- The National Cathedral and the Episcopal churches in Washington, D.C. are described by one website as “Worship and Spiritual Centers/Episcopal.”
- St. Francis Episcopal Church (Zionsville, IN) and Trinity Episcopal Church (Indianapolis, IN) are both described as “Church/Spiritual Center” on one website.

Designating Grace St. Paul’s as a spiritual center emphasizes to the larger world our main goals of *Loving God, Serving Others, and Journeying Together*.

The new designation underlines that GSP provides its members, as well as others seeking a closer connection to the Divine, the following offerings:

- spiritual direction, counseling, and study
- liturgies, chanting, meditation, music, and prayer to experience peace and unfold our inner being
- healing for mind, body, and spirit
- ways to meet others who are seeking spiritual growth
- a library and a bookstore with spiritual topics
- gatherings, classes, and day retreats that provide a variety of spiritual practices to inspire and guide us on our spiritual paths
- help transform our lives
- make the world a better place

Blessings,

*Martha*

## Editor’s Note

Oh no! *The Briefly* editor has to leave town for most of July and half of August. What to do? Never fear, our excellent former editor, Martha Whitaker, and volunteer editor Angel Wang have stepped up to the plate!

Therefore, for the September issue, regular contributors will email articles to Martha Whitaker at [seniorwarden@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:seniorwarden@grace-stpauls.org). First-timers and ministry articles still go to Craig Garver at [chg9389@gmail.com](mailto:chg9389@gmail.com), and calendar entries to Wendy Pipentacos at [wendypipe@yahoo.com](mailto:wendypipe@yahoo.com).

The **next deadline is Monday, Aug. 22**, for the September issue. Any commonly used word processing format is acceptable, but it’s easiest if you simply paste the article into an email. If you do not have access to a computer, please call the office and ask if there is a volunteer who can help you type it into an email.

Special thanks to Angel Wang and Martha Whitaker for serving as volunteer editors in Lynda Canfield’s absence for the August issue of *The Briefly*.

Summer is in high gear and whizzing right on by. It's been busy. That's not what one wants, really. I personally want tongue-lolling boredom so that the fall feels like a brisk change. But no, things are hopping.

We have a new service – Compline – on alternate Sundays at 8 p.m., which is a meditative addition to the service offerings here at Grace St. Paul's. If you haven't tried it, come along. It's a great way to start the week. I've been helping arrange the special music,

and I'll be playing keyboard for the next one. Mom always told me piano skills would come in handy as she set the kitchen timer and made me practice an hour a day.

This Sunday I'll be giving my annual music class for adult education; this year's is on the history of Anglican hymnody.

It's cool to see where our music comes from, and to understand the layers added over the centuries. The *Hymnal 1982 Companion*, in three volumes totaling 1392 pages, qualifies as megafauna and will tell you everything you want to know and more about each hymn in the blue hymnal. You, too, can learn that the first stanza of *Helmsley* ("Lo! He comes, with clouds descending") contains hints of 1 Th. 3:13 and 4:16f, the second Rev. 1:7, and the third possibly Jn. 20:27f and Rev. 5:6-14. I'm sure you'll sleep better at night knowing that (or just for having read that sentence).

I enjoy knowing that the tune was attributed by John Wesley to Thomas Olivers, the guy who wrote "The God of Abraham praise," but Olivers claimed he heard the tune whistled in the street and simply jotted it down. Thomas Arne is listed in the hymnal as the composer because this tune was thought to be a song from his Thomas and Sally. But now they think Olivers heard someone whistling *Helmsley* itself – the tune had been around for at least a couple of years before Wesley published his version in *Sacred Melody* (1765). Talk about your chicken and your egg. The version we know today was harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Musically speaking, if God weren't God, Ralph Vaughan Williams would be, at least in Episcopal circles.

So now it's time for summer camp. If you have a junior dude at home, or if you are a junior dude (in the gender-free understanding of that word), please consider signing up for the Arts for Summer Camp at GSP from August 1 to 5. Joan Brundage, who directs the St. Cecelia's Choir, has prepared a wonderful musical experience.

Ann Stephens has been continuing to wave her magic sanity wand in the choir room. She's sorting and filing and running out of room. At least we haven't chucked any in the dumpster yet. There's some stuff that clearly deserves it, but even that could be recycled. Throwing away music is like throwing away a book. It should be illegal.

Meanwhile, in the chancel at ten o'clock, various soloists have been keeping the music program going in the choir's absence. Let's thank (in order of appearance) David Morgan, tuba; Lisa Renteria, bassoon, and Francisco Renteria, piano; Mark Jarvis, bass; Madison Knutson, solo piano, and Wesley Hunter, solo viola; Richard Cameron, baritone; Cameron Sutton, tenor, and David Hensley, piano; Clyde Kunz, tenor; Jim Neeley, baritone; Ann Stephens, mezzo soprano; Winifred Williams, soprano, with Homero Cerón, percussion; and Brigette McIntyre, soprano. We are grateful to them for sharing their talents with the parish. That gets us through August. Then the choir starts up after Labor Day, with the Bishop's annual visitation, which coincides with the anniversary of 9/11 and the start-up of church school. That's going to be one tricky Sunday to plan.

But we aren't there yet. Enjoy the rest of the summer. Dance in a few monsoon showers, but avoid the *haboobs*. You didn't want to go to Phoenix anyway, did you? Relish God's creation and find many reasons to loll at leisure.

Peace,

*Christina*

## Notes from the Choir Stalls

By Christina Jarvis, Director of Music



## New Roles for Rosalind & Kate

As all of you are aware by seeing the many new young faces around, we have made great strides in beginning to grow our children, youth, and young adult ministries. This is due chiefly to the hard work of our new staff members, Rosalind Garcia and The Rev. Kate Baird, as well as many volunteers who support these ministries through their efforts.

I am very pleased with this initial progress and for all the additions we have made to our programs, including multiple youth events and retreats, integration of youth and children into regular Sunday worship, a monthly interactive and hands-on Eucharist for children and youth, a Compline service specifically designed for young adults, a young adult social program, and more.

Now that we have a few months under our belt and our learning curve has decreased, the time has come to delineate duties of our new staff members so that we may utilize their very limited hours to the fullest. Rosalind Garcia will concentrate her efforts totally on children and youth ministries. The Rev. Kate Baird will focus on young adult ministries, the new Compline service, Spirit Now facilitation, and increasing her liturgical presence in regular worship.

We believe this slight change in focus will allow us to accomplish even more as a church as we continue to grow in numbers and spiritually. Thanks to all of you for putting so much of yourselves into this effort and for creating the wonderful energy that makes GSP attractive to so many. Our future is indeed bright and beautiful.

Blessings,  
*Steve +*



## Children's Eucharist = BIG fun!

*By Martha Whitaker, Senior Warden*

An interactive hands-on Children's Eucharist now takes place every fourth Sunday of the month, and the kids love it!

The June Children's Eucharist included songs like "Roll over the Ocean, Roll Over the Sea," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," and "What if You Came to my Church?" The Eucharist was celebrated with real bread, butter, jelly and peanut butter, and allowed for questions from the children.

The service was so successful, children were literally jumping for joy (*see photo above*), and exclaimed that they could hardly wait until the next one! Don't miss the August Children's Eucharist on Aug. 28!

## What's Happening in Children, Youth & Family Ministries

*By Rosalind Garcia*

**Arts for Summer Camp** will be over by the time this is published. We, of course, anticipate a wonderful week of good times and laughter, fun learning and lots of mess! The camp offers visual arts, dramatic arts and music. We will explore the theme of Creation, and by the end of camp each child will have designed and built a prayer table with a mosaic top, helped to write and perform a musical for parents, and reflected on and responded to the wonderment of God's creation through the use of a "fettuccia" (a very, very long ribbon that

documents the billions of years of creation).

All this fun makes the children hungry and we have a wonderful group of volunteers who will have made delicious lunches and snacks for our hungry campers. The last day will have featured musical performances and an art show for parents and families, complete with gallery opening party fare.

We thank all those who have helped make camp possible this year, especially: Hunter Calven, Harriet Claiborne, Charlie and Phyllis Dennison, Alice Garcia, Jean Kepplinger, Michael Sugimoto, Cameron Sutton, Kevin Wadlow and Mariel Watt. Thank you too to Joan Brundage and Linda Rosenfield and the many others who have donated time, expertise, materials and scholarship money so that everybody who wanted to participate in camp was able to have the experience.

## Sunday School and Youth Groups

*Mark Your Calendars*

- **Sept. 11:** 2011–12 Registration for Sunday School and Youth groups
- **Sept. 18:** First day of the 2011–12 program year

## Solstice and Equinox events

*By Martha Whitaker, Senior Warden*

The Summer Solstice celebration on June 21 on the GSP labyrinth was a beautiful way to officially welcome the summer. Fr. Steve led the celebration, which included modernized hymns accompanied by piano (thank you, Pamela Decker!) and a communal walk on the labyrinth. Ana Ortiz blew bubbles for everyone's enjoyment.

Once people reached the center of the labyrinth, they were invited to select a solar medallion from a basket. People brought fresh fruits and vegetables from their garden – including rare and delicious saguaro fruit – to share in a reception following the solstice celebration.

If you haven't yet had the chance to experience one of our Celestial Celebrations, please save the date for the Autumnal Equinox on Friday, Sept. 23, 2011.

## Financial Transparency & Mutual Ministry

By Martha Whitaker, Senior Warden

There are several articles and graphics in this issue of the *Briefly* that address GSP's finances. Our goal is to make everyone aware of our current financial status: we are about \$44,000 in the red, and will likely be \$50,000 in the red by the end of 2011 unless we make a conscious effort to grow financially.

Part of Fr. Steve's job is to grow this church. He and all the GSP staff are doing exactly

what they were hired to do, and they're doing a great job! But mutual ministry means that part of our responsibility is to support him and the staff we've hired, not only by showing up and living the gospel, but by doing our fair share to financially support this very precious place, and all its ministries that serve us and so many of our brothers and sisters, in myriad ways.

What does it cost to run GSP? Let's look at our electric bills as an example.

Below is a graph that shows our bills for the church (not including the rectory) for 2011. The smallest electric bills this year have been more than \$1,000 per month. Our biggest bill to date was last month, at just over \$2,100, and the July electric bill is, historically, even larger. *Holy Toledo!* Can you imagine opening up that bill in your house? That's what it costs to run GSP's HVAC and keep the lights on so that we can enjoy all of the opportunities we have for worship and spiritual growth at GSP. We also

pay salaries to our rector and staff to work throughout the week to create the beautiful services and liturgies we all enjoy.

Many people readily pay a monthly cable bill, or pay a monthly membership to the YMCA because those businesses require payment for services rendered.

At GSP, tithing and stewardship are encouraged, not required. We really hope you would want to support this church and all our fantastic ministries, because the last thing any of us wants is to go the way of Tucson's First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) who, after 130 years, closed on June 12. They had a new pastor who injected new life and energy into the church, and who helped them live their progressive vision of a church who accepted everyone, no exceptions. What happened? The church was living off money from the sale of its previous property location. Sound familiar? That's what GSP has been doing since 1991. We have never lived within our budget except during our transition period (2007–10), and we were only able to do so because we received a bequest (2008), and were without a Priest Associate, Parish Administrator, and Director of Religious Education. Sometimes we didn't even have an Interim Rector. Now we have a fantastic new rector, a part-time parish administrator, and a part-time director of children and youth, and a part-time priest associate, all of whom are working far more than their part-time hours, and all of whom are being paid from our Capital /Emergency Reserve fund.

If you're wondering what you can do to help GSP, step up and commit your financial support if you are able. If you are already a pledging steward, please help us by keeping your pledge current, and fulfilling your pledge! If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so. If you are not yet ready to pledge, we encourage you to consider making regular contributions in support of our people and programs. Your generosity is deeply appreciated!



# An Allegory of Fruit & Drought

GSP's Six-Month Shortfall of \$44,000

By Tom Pitello, Assistant Treasurer

Thank God for rain! This is my thought as I reflect on the natural landscape that abounds in my yard. Of course monsoon rains are unique. I can watch rain falling all around the area and not feel it falling

on me. Rain is life-giving in this desert environment. I have a select few prickly pear plants that have grown to be several feet wide and three to four feet tall. They show many beautiful flowers with some plants having flowers with color different than others. At the appropriate time of year they bear wondrous fruit for the animals, some of that fruit

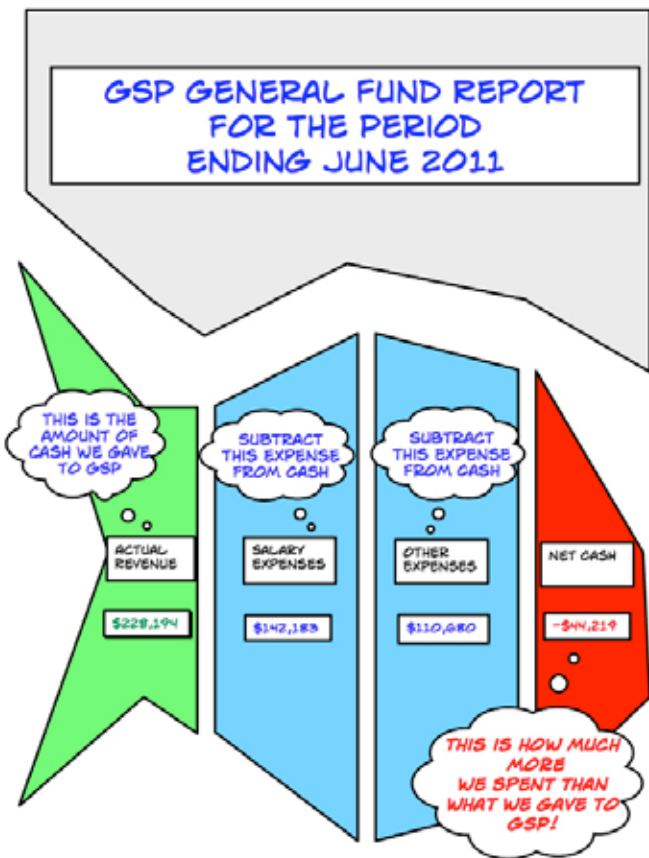
chosen for supplemental watering. They aren't robust any longer.

I recognize this is not a unique story; it could very well be an allegory for our financial situation at Grace St. Paul's. Over time GSP has flourished and at times withered, performed many wonderful acts of outreach, and produced many exciting new leaders for both ordained and lay ministry. We are expanding again and beginning to show new programs and produce new leaders as fruit of our efforts.

Like the natural landscape that depends on water, this fruit depends on having the money to support the growing and living of GSP. Right now, however, we are experiencing a bit of a shortfall – a drought of \$44,000 in revenue. Moreover, it is important to recognize that GSP isn't a part of the natural landscape that goes on without our involvement. GSP is our garden; we control what gets nurtured. If it isn't given enough of our personal involvement it can easily wither like some of my prickly pear.

This year we have a new Rector and two new staff people. We have invigorated programs, continuing outreach, many more people attending regularly, more children, and new offerings for participation from people who have yet to see the gray in their hair. We have provided for 22 funerals this year. All of this requires that each of us give of ourselves in the form of our money. As of the end of June, GSP has spent \$44,219 more than we have received in offerings. Clearly there is not enough money to pay for our GSP.

What can you do to help? If you are already a pledging steward, please help us by keeping your pledge current, and fulfilling your pledge! Your generosity is deeply appreciated. If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so now. Pledge forms are available at the welcome table in McBride Hall every Sunday, and are also available in the parish office. If you are not yet comfortable pledging, we encourage you to consider making regular contributions in support of our people and programs. Please support the people and programs you love. Become bold and talk with your fellow members, and let's encourage each other to give to support the work of this Church, our GSP.



turns a bright red as the year progresses.

But the last few years are different. I see that there has been less rain and one of these beautiful plants has now completely withered and died. Not enough water. This year most of them did not flower and did not have fruit as a result. The occasional downpour has not been enough. These plants are part of the native landscape and are not taken care of as if they were plantings in a garden. They don't get

## Living Into Wellness: Pastoral Care at GSP

By Eric K. Carr

There is no question that many in our parish have been facing challenges, from little setbacks to unfathomable losses, and as a community we are mourning together. As a response to these losses, Fr. Steve, the Communications Committee, and the Vestry want to remind the GSP community that we have myriad resources available to people in need. Pastoral Care comes in many forms here so that we can grow into wellness and abundance together.

People have recently expressed that they do not know how to utilize these resources, or even what is available. In general, the best place to start is by calling the church office during business hours (327-6857). Someone there will take a message or direct you to the resource that can best serve you. For after-hours emergencies, you can call 668-5727 to reach a rotating member of the Pastoral Care staff. The weekly bulletin also has phone numbers and resources listed.

Aside from emergency or crisis care, Grace St. Paul's has a wonderful volley of resources and programs available to help us cultivate wellness in our daily lives. Every Tuesday we have meditation in the Julian Chapel at 7 p.m. We also have Healing Touch clinics on Monday nights and Thursdays during the day in which certified practitioners use a variety of techniques to help with everything from depression and anxiety to health conditions. Also, *Qi Gong* classes take place on the labyrinth every Friday, and we have ongoing spiritual direction available as well.

In addition to classes and clinics, we have an intercessory prayer team, a prayer shawl ministry, and special classes like Rev. Nancy Meister-Book's *Mourner's Path* class that will

be offered through Adult Education later this fall. We are even doing extra things to the GSP campus so that people can come and experience God in nature, in the memorial garden, or by walking the labyrinth. This will only increase as we continue to make GSP into a true healing community and spiritual center.

Every second Sunday is a special healing service, and during the Eucharist people are encouraged to seek out one of the healing ministers available in the narthex or chapel for prayer and anointing with chrism. Personally, I can also say that the GSP community as a whole has been there for me in more ways than I could have imagined. Even hugs during the Peace can be a form of healing outreach, and our congregation is full of people with varying gifts.

If you or a loved one needs prayer, you can submit prayer requests for the *Bulletin* to David Wachter (gsp1@dakotacom.net), and your request will be in the *Bulletin* for a month. If you want to submit a private request to the Intercessory Prayer Team, speak to Linda Brown or send her an email at lb4grad@cs.com.

This fall and winter we plan on hosting a special class to explain Pastoral Care and what it entails. Keep an eye out for it. In the meantime, we encourage you to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities for help and healing at GSP. Healing is all around us if we are open to it, and we are committed to generating health, wholeness, and abundance in our community in as many ways as we can.



### You Will Be Missed

We are sad to announce the deaths in June and July of the following beloved members of Grace St. Paul's:

Karen English, June 5.

Doris Ceccone, June 10.

Adrienne Gossard, July 4.

We will continue to hold these people in our prayers.



## Laura, Jennifer & Jackson bid farewell

**O**n Aug. 10, Laura Briggs, Jennifer Nye and their son, Jackson, will be moving across the country so that Laura may start her new position as Chair of the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Laura has attended GSP since 1995. She was co-junior warden with Nancy Meister for two years in the early 2000s. She was also coordinator of the youth group from 1995–97, and was part of groups to support migrants including, most recently, Bridging the Borders. She taught numerous adult spiritual formation courses and was an occasional preacher.



Jennifer, who describes herself as a “recovering Catholic”, started attending GSP with Laura in 2003. Jackson was baptized by Fr. Steve at GSP on Jan. 16, 2011.

They are a long-time GSP family and will be missed!

Laura’s daughter, Maribel Briggs Ortiz, and Maribel’s other mother Ana Ortiz, and her partner, Michi Yamasaki will remain in Tucson and continue to be part of the GSP community.

### New Additions to the Media Library By Lynne Albright

You can now borrow DVDs of the following services: Steve Keplinger’s first service, the first service in Green Season, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, Easter, Joe Fitzgerald’s service of reception, Celebration of Mutual Ministry, Rite 13 and the movie *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. Thanks to Jesse Thrall for making these available on loan.

Just place the signed card in the box on top of the carousel with the tapes/CDs/DVDs. When you return the item, replace the card and put the item on the shelf. Shelves are labeled as to type of material: services, speaker series, etc.

Our library is located in the Weeks Room in the undercroft.

## News from Bridging Borders

By Nancy Meister–Book

The *Hogar de Esperanza y Paz* (HEPAC) from Nogales, Sonora, thanks the GSP community. Donations were generous and came just in time for their summer camp. The cookies will be a special treat for the children, not usually part of their everyday meal.

The summer movie series included two films about immigrants, *Mother of Invention*, a Chinese single parent Mother and children in New York City, and *The Band’s Visit*, about Palestinian immigrants. The third film on Friday, Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m., *Which Way Home*, follows the perilous journey of three children from Latin America who are determined to rejoin their families in the United States. We have had a lot of folks from outside the parish attend and discussion has been lively.

There will be a second vigil on Thursday, Aug. 11 at 6:30 p.m., in Florence outside of the Pinal county courthouse, bringing attention to abuses in immigration detention centers.

During the first week in June, Deacon Nancy Meister–Book and her husband Jay, completed the 75-mile Migrant Trail Walk from Sasabe, Sonora, to Kennedy Park in Tucson. The procession was led by a person carrying a prayer stick, with knots representing the 253 people who died in the last year. An unknown number are never found. The walkers carried crosses with names of those who had died. It was hot and dusty and many on this long walk got blisters. There were people on the walk of all ages, from eleven states and three countries. Participants returned home with a resolve to work for comprehensive immigration reform and resist anti migrant state bills like SB 1070. The walk was a witness to the migrant’s struggle to find work and provide for their family.

# Adult Spiritual Formation

## Opportunities for August

Join us as we explore the role of Christianity in peace and war, as we rethink our theology of money and abundance, as we reflect on migrant issues, as we learn how to support HIV/AIDS programs, as we discuss the meaning of Progressive Christianity, and as we read and enjoy a classic American play.

## Beyond Our Differences

Sundays, July 31 & Aug. 7, 9–9:50 a.m.,  
Bloom Education Center

Come and discuss interfaith perspectives that may provide food for your spiritual journey. This PBS video features Desmond Tutu, Karen Armstrong, the Dalai Lama and other international figures, addressing spirituality's role in overcoming cultural differences. *Beyond our Differences* explores the common threads that unify the world's religious traditions. Religious leaders, politicians and luminaries in their fields give voice to the positive effects of spirituality and morality, focusing on commonalities spanning all faiths. While the negative – even violent – side of religion is widely reported, director Peter Bisanz documents the hope for positive change and healing universal to so many.

Facilitated by Roger Pierce, who is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has attended Grace St. Paul's for over one year and has a special interest in adult spiritual formation and spiritual growth.

## Spirit Players: A Play Reading Experience

Friday, Aug. 5, 6:30–8 p.m., Bloom Education Center

In the spirit of literary gatherings of the Victorian era, we will read scripts that relate to the theme of life passages of everyday people. Everyone is invited to attend and participate in cold readings of each play. No theatre or public speaking experience is necessary; parts will be randomly assigned to anyone who shows up. Non-readers are welcome as well and can participate as an audience. All the plays are appropriate for all ages.

## Our Town

Friday, Aug. 5

Thornton Wilder's modern classic, *Our Town*, follows the lives of two families in a small early-twentieth century New Hampshire town.

Facilitated by Eric Rau and Nanalee Raphael, Grace St. Paul's Spirit Players, who enjoy meeting with folks for play time.

## Constantine's Sword

Sunday, Aug. 7, 7–9 p.m., Bloom Education Center.

This astonishing exploration of the dark side of Christianity follows acclaimed author and former priest James Carroll on a journey of remembrance and reckoning. This National Book Award winner and columnist for the *Boston Globe* is a practicing Catholic whose search for the truth leads him to confront persecution and violence in the name of God – today and in the Church's past. He discovers a terrible legacy that reverberates across the centuries, from the Emperor Constantine's vision of the cross as a sword and symbol of power, to the rise of genocidal anti-Semitism, to modern-day wars and conflicts sparked by religious extremism. Warning of what happens when military power and religious fervor are joined, *Constantine's Sword* asks, is the fanaticism that threatens the world today fueled by our own deeply held beliefs? A theological reflection will follow the film.

Coordinated by Nanalee Raphael, who viewed this film a few years ago in a similar setting and has wanted to share this with Grace St. Paul's members since that time.

## Faith & HIV/AIDS Awareness Series for Adults with TIHAN

Tuesdays, Aug. 9 & 16, 7–9 p.m., Weeks Room.

Come to learn the most current, up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS and the role of faith-based communities, such as Grace St. Paul's.

*Tuesday, Aug. 9* – HIV 101: Basics of HIV & a panel of living with HIV speakers.

*Tuesday, Aug. 16* – HIV & your faith: how you can make a difference in your community

Coordinated by Jay Elliston, Grace St. Paul's coordinator with TIHAN.

## Soul Feast: An Invitation to Spiritual Life

Second Wednesdays, Aug. 10 & Sept. 13, 6:30–8 p.m.,  
Weeks Room; pre-registration required

Ever wonder about different practices and disciplines of the Christian Life? For example, practices we have seen birthed at Grace St. Paul's in the last year include an ongoing meditation group and evening prayer. In Marjorie Thompson's *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*, she says, "by themselves the Spiritual Disciplines can do nothing; they can only get us to the place where something can be done. They



are the means by which we place ourselves where God can bless us.” If you have a spiritual practice, come and share your wisdom; if you would like to learn more about different spiritual practices, join us as we practice together. We will explore spiritual reading, praying, worship, fasting, examination of conscience, spiritual guidance, hospitality and development of a rule of life. Thompson’s book will be available at The Rector’s Bookshelf.

Facilitated by Linda Hutson, spiritual director at Grace St. Paul’s.

## **Bridging Borders Film Series**

**Friday, Aug. 12, 6:30–9 p.m., Bloom Education Center**

Bridging Borders is pleased to present our annual film festival with entertaining and thought-provoking films addressing migration within and between countries from a variety of points of view. A discussion after each film will focus on the issues raised in the film and what they mean for us as twenty-first century people of faith.

*Which Way Home* is a stunning HBO documentary about the plight of the children left behind when their families travel to the United States to find work. Rebecca Cammisa received a Fulbright Scholar Grant and traveled to Mexico to film the saga. This Oscar nominated story follows the perilous journey of three children from Latin America bound and determined to rejoin their families in the United States.

Members of the Bridging Borders committee will moderate the film.

## **Am I Rich? Re-Thinking My Theology**

**Sunday, Aug. 14, 9–9:50 a.m.,**

**Bloom Education Center**

What is life abundant? Dorothy Day wrote, “I wanted life and I wanted the abundant life. I wanted it for others too.” Let us get together to explore how our understanding of where human beings fit into the planet influences our view of the abundant life. Then we’ll ask ourselves how we can imagine and live a different abundant life. Our discussion will be based on the ideas of Sallie McFague’s, *Life Abundant, Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril*, and Loren B. Mead’s *Financial Meltdown in the Mainline*? Both books will be available at the Rector’s Bookshelf.

Conducted by Peggy Scott, Co-Chair of the Giving & Receiving Ministry, and a former EfM mentor who enjoys reflecting on God and how we live our lives.

## **EfM (Education for Ministry) – registration**

**Aug. 15–Sept. 7, Church office, Mon.–Fri.**

We are looking for folks who would be interested in joining us starting this coming September–May seminar session. EfM provides a place for readings, discussions and opportunities for worship leadership as well as learning the process of theological reflection to help interpret the richness of the church’s faith in light of even daunting day-to-day events.

Currently, Grace St. Paul’s has two EfM classes on Wednesdays: 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pamphlets are currently available at the welcome table. If you have immediate questions, feel free to call one of the co-mentors (Kay Bigglestone or Mary Delaney for the morning class; Nanalee Raphael or Chris Ledyard for the evening class) through the church office at 327–6857, or visit the website at [sewanee.edu/EFM](http://sewanee.edu/EFM).

## **What Does a Progressive Christian Believe? A Guide for the Searching, the Open, & the Curious**

**Sundays, Aug. 21 & 28, 9–9:50 a.m.,**

**Bloom Education Center**

We’ll discuss the book of the same title that offers a Christianity that charts a different course than liberal or conservative Christianity, a course that embraces the rich diversity of the biblical narrative and the public witness of the church. In seven points, the book retrieves the value of the bible, affirms the presence of God entwined in all of creation, breathes life into the creeds (*imagine that!*), and grounds a view of humanity in the Genesis story of co-creation and the twin commandments to love God and others as ourselves. Love is the key to the treatment of sin, and the author gives us refreshing correctives on centuries of bad preaching. This an excellent, readable look at the basics of Progressive Christianity.

Facilitated by Roger Pierce, ordained minister and an advocate of Progressive Christianity.



# Grace St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### What's Happening in August

**1st** 9 a.m., GSP Arts for Summer  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**2nd** 9 a.m., GSP Arts for Summer  
6 p.m., Healing Touch Community Meeting  
6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**3rd** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., GSP Arts for Summer  
6 p.m., Global Chant

**4th** 9 a.m., GSP Arts for Summer  
9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**5th** 9 a.m., GSP Arts for Summer  
9 a.m., Qigong Class  
6:30 p.m., A Play Reading Experience  
8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**6th** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
9 a.m., Beyond Our Differences

**7th** 10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups  
5:30 p.m., GSP 20s & 30s  
6:30 p.m., Movie: *Constantine's Sword*  
8 p.m., **Candlelight Compline**

**8th** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**9th** 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 Group  
7 p.m., *Faith and HIV/AIDS Awareness for Adults*  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**10th** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant  
6:30 p.m., *Soul Feast: An Invitation to Spiritual Life*

**11th** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**12th** 9 a.m., Qigong Class  
6:30 p.m., Bridging Borders Film Series

**13th** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**14th** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
9 a.m., *"Am I Rich?" Rethinking My Theology*  
10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

**15th** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**16th** 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
7 p.m., *Faith and HIV/AIDS Awareness for Adults*  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**17th** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant

**18th** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**19th** 9 a.m., Qigong Class  
7 p.m., Film & Fellowship

**20th** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**21st** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
9 a.m., *What Does a Progressive Christian Believe?*  
10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
10 a.m., *Training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups  
8 p.m., **Candlelight Compline**

**22nd** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**23rd** 9 a.m., Primavera Cooks!  
6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
6:30 p.m., EfM Year 11 Group  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**24th** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant

**25th** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**26th** 9 a.m., Qigong Class

**27th** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café  
9 a.m., *Catechesis of the Good*

**28th** **Food Ministries Sunday**  
8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
9 a.m., *What Does a Progressive Christian Believe?*  
10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

**29th** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**30th** 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**31st** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant

### Looking ahead to September

**1st** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**2nd** 9 a.m., Qigong Class

**3rd** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**4th** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups  
5:30 p.m., GSP 20s and 30s

**5th** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**6th** 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**7th** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant

**8th** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**9th** 9 a.m., Qigong Class

**10th** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**11th** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
8 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., Youth Groups

**12th** 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

**13th** 6 p.m., **Evening Prayer & Eucharist**  
7 p.m., Interfaith Meditation Group

**14th** 7 a.m., **Holy Eucharist**  
6 p.m., Global Chant  
6:30 p.m., *Soul Feast: An Invitation to Spiritual Life*

**15th** 9 a.m., Conversational French Class  
3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
6 p.m., **Spirit Now: An Interactive, Inclusive Communion Celebration**

**16th** 9 a.m., Qigong Class

**17th** 8:30 a.m., Morning Coffee, Epic Café

**18th** 8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
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8 a.m., Coffee and Conversation  
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