

# The Briefly

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## Notes from Your Interim Rector

There are Christmas decorations up already... the obligatory jazz Christmas CD is at my local Starbucks... my calendar is already filled with festivities...and I haven't even said good-bye to my turkey yet!

Every year around this time I teeter back and forth from excited anticipation to weary anxiety. And then I remember the very special blessings of Advent. Every December I'm particularly happy to be an Episcopalian. The seasonal frenzy for us can be muted and softened by a sweet purple and blue time, an opportunity for waiting and sinking ourselves into a soulful preparation for that most holy of nights—and for wondering when we will once again welcome the Prince of Peace to our world. You see, Advent is not just about preparing for the coming of the Christ child to a creche near you; it's also a bit apocalyptic, reminding us to prepare for “end things,” for Christ's promised return at the end of the age. In church during Advent we're always met with that odd conundrum, the happy story of Mary's miracle baby and the jarring reminder that all things pass away. It's a tension that is precious, and true. Our own lives are full of beginnings, wonder, and endings. The spiraling circle of life goes on, the light ebbs away in the midst of summer and returns to us during our darkest night. It can be especially hard for some of us to join in. The paradox of our Christian faith is never more poignant than in this season of joy.

Advent is not just about preparing for the coming of the Christ child... it's also reminding us to prepare for 'end things'...

One of my favorite Christmas hymns holds this tension well:

*A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;  
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.  
And straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall harbor heaven,  
a stall become a shrine. But now as at the ending,  
the low is lifted high, in praises of the Child  
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled...*

O come Emmanuel! Have a very, very blessed season!



Angela Guida reacts with a big smile as she is ordained into the diaconate during a service on Nov. 30, accompanied by Bishop Kirk Smith (left), the Rev. Gordon McBride (background), and Gail Hirn (right).

# From the Senior Warden

**T**here is no less holiness at this time—as you are reading this—than there was the day the Red Sea parted.... In any instant the sacred may wipe you with its finger. In any instant the bush may flare, your feet may rise, or you may see a bunch of souls in a tree. In any instant you may avail yourself of the power to love your enemies; to accept failure, slander, or the grief of loss; or to endure torture. Purity's time is always now.

—Annie Dillard, *For the Time Being*

We stand on the threshold we call Advent as I write this, anticipating the birth of the new, not only in the retelling of one of the most sacred stories of our tradition—the birth of Jesus—but also the birth of that which is, as yet, unseen in our own lives and in the life of our congregation. Advent is a time when the future is poised for the big reveal... but that future has not yet incarnated, is not yet visible. It's enough to make you want to hold your breath with anticipation.

As a community of faith, we remain poised on the threshold of a new future, caught between “what was” and “what will be.” That threshold has taken a bit longer to cross than we initially anticipated and it's tempting, as we wait for the coming of a new rector (not to be confused with the second coming of you know who), to focus on the horizon rather than on the ground beneath our feet. But Advent calls us to prepare for the future by focusing on the “here and now.”

How does this translate to our shared life at Grace St. Paul's? Well, I can think of a few ways that, as a community, we can continue to prepare ourselves for our new rector over the next six to eight months:

- We can continue to tell our stories about GSP, identifying the joys and the sorrows in our congregation's history, our losses and our gains, with the goal of understanding how we arrived at this place in time.

## Vestry Nominations for 2010

This time of year GSP seeks out members to become official candidates for election to become representatives on the Vestry. The Nomination Committee—composed of Tom Pitello (chair), Tricia Galvin, Chris Eastoe, and Lynne Albright—has been appointed by the Rector and will follow the same process as last year with the presentation of a slate of nominees at the Annual Meeting.

Membership on the Vestry denotes a commitment to you and requires a significant amount of personal time. Those chosen need to have a record of involvement with GSP; a commitment to additional vigorous participation; a willingness to be present and active in the administration of parish business; and they must meet Canonical require-

- We can continue to seek a shared vision of the future for GSP, identifying our passions and using our imaginations to peek and dream beyond what we know or think is possible.

- We can link our commitment to the mission of GSP and its ministries to our growing understanding of financial stewardship as a relationship with God, with the goal of making the “business” of the church a spiritual practice—and not just another boring PowerPoint presentation.

- We can continue to tend, lovingly, to our inreach and outreach ministries, seeking new gardeners—in the form of lay leaders and volunteers—to help us keep them healthy and invigorated.

- We can prepare ourselves to welcome new leadership for our parish, and to acknowledge our gratitude to our interim rectors and all those—including the Vestry and Search Committee—who have led us across the threshold into the new life that awaits us.

Many of these preparations are already underway, but they will need continued nurturing and attention in the remaining months in order to come to fruition.

*This is holy time.* The sacred is among us, holding our hopes and fears in its gentle hands. We are called to see the presence of that grace in all that occurs around us, within us. We are called to respond to grace's invitation to continually find new ways of being Christ's body in a changing world. It's scary and exciting all rolled up into one big bundle. May your Advent be blessed, your Christmas fulfilled, and your New Year full of promise. And may we all rejoice in God's grace as we move into the future!

Peace,

**Catherine Penn Williams**

ments. The new members will be called upon for almost weekly meetings during the months of April, May and June for the work of selecting and bringing a new Rector to GSP.

The Nomination Committee will present a slate of candidates on Dec. 13, with four candidates for 3-year terms, one candidate for a one-year term, and the Junior Warden. The Chairperson or the Rector will accept additional, open nominations from Dec. 20 through Jan. 3 for 3-year term positions on the Vestry. We will hold an Open Forum for the candidates on Jan. 17. GSP Parish approval will occur at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 24.

For any questions you may have please contact Tom Pitello at [usaztom@mac.com](mailto:usaztom@mac.com).

## Briefly Deadline

The next deadline for *The Briefly* is Tuesday, Jan. 19, for the February 2010 issue.

Please send electronic articles to Martha P.L. Whitaker at: [jartham@cox.net](mailto:jartham@cox.net). Either MS Word or WordPerfect format is acceptable, or you may simply paste the article into the body of your e-mail.

If you do not have access to a computer, you may neatly hand write or type your article, and put it in Lynne Albright's GSP mailbox no later than Monday, Jan. 18.

Please send graphics and photos directly to John Banks at [jdbanks@gmail.com](mailto:jdbanks@gmail.com).

# Holidays at GSP

## Celebrate the Holidays at GSP!

By Deborah Heathcock

**Blue Christmas—Sunday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.**  
**Solstice Celebration—Monday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.**  
**Christmas Eve—Thursday, Dec. 24, Family & Children's Pageant at 6 p.m.; Midnight Mass at 10:30 p.m.**  
**Christmas Day—Friday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.**  
**Lessons & Carols—Sunday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m.**

### Parish Office Holiday Hours & Closures

The GSP office will close at noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The office will be closed on:

- Friday, Dec. 25—Christmas Day
- Monday, Dec. 28—for continued Christmas observance
- Friday, Jan. 1—New Year's Day
- Monday, Jan. 18—MLK Day

Our holiday season here at Grace St. Paul's has already been a bountiful feast indeed! As soon as the turkey was polished off we began Advent (Nov. 29) with a musical presentation from Jane Click, et al., and an opportunity to hear GSP seminarian Angela Guida preach. And the very next day (Nov. 30), we joined Angela at 7 p.m. to celebrate her ordination to the transitional diaconate right here at GSP!

On Dec. 4 & 5 we will welcome J. Phillip Newell as he presents a program on Celtic Spirituality, and we will hear him preach on the following Sunday (Dec. 6).

The Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 13) is chocked full of goodies! First, the coffee hour following both services will become Alternative Christmas, a holiday marketplace full of opportunities to make our Christmas giving more meaningful. Then, in the afternoon, take the opportunity to hear Musica Sonora at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 3 p.m. (or 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11) as they present An Old World Christmas. And give an extra loud cheer for our own Christina Jarvis, who also serves as Artistic Director of Musica Sonora! Later that evening, join us for our Blue Christmas observance (7 p.m.) as we

offer a more subdued and reflective Christmas especially for those of us who may be still healing and need something different during this season of frenetic cheer.

Then on Monday, Dec. 21, take a break from your Christmas shopping and parties to join us for our Mass for the Third Millennium's Solstice Celebration (7 p.m.).

Finally, it's Christmas! Our Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) services will include a family service with a children's pageant at 6 p.m. and a "midnight mass" beginning at 10:30 p.m. with a musical presentation. Christmas Day (Dec. 25) services will take place at 10 a.m.

But we're not done yet! On New Year's Eve (7 p.m.) join composer Kristopher Lindquist for Singing for Peace: An Evening of Chants and Meditation. What a wonderful way to begin a new year!

Then on Sunday, Jan. 3, we'll observe the second Sunday of Christmas with a service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. Epiphany Sunday follows (Jan. 10) with baptism; and we will round out our January with a celebration of MLK Sunday (Jan. 17) and, finally, we'll welcome the Rev. Lucas Mix, the new chaplain at the University of Arizona, as our preacher (Jan. 31). Ask him about his work at NASA and his book on science and spirituality!

Whew! What a feast! We'll save a place just for you!

### Alternative Christmas

**Sunday, Dec. 13**

**9-9:45 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McBride Hall**

Tired of the old commercialism and materialistic demands for this time of year? Come participate in the opportunity in gifting that benefits others and their organizations. GSP is hosting a Christmas Fair featuring crafts made by parishioners and items from charitable organizations. Come see Rich Bates' fabulous metal flowers, choose jewelry made in Zambia to support Africa Team Ministries and pick out some fun horse related gift items from Equine Voices. There will be baked goods and

ecologic creams for sale, too!

### Blue Christmas Service

**Sunday, Dec. 13**

**7 p.m., Sanctuary**

**By the Rev. Nadine Martin**

Christmas is the time of year during which we are bombarded by the media with images of Ozzie-and-Harriet-type families getting together and celebrating with joy. Yet for many people, their image of Christmas contrasts sharply with the ones we see on television. The darkness we feel in our hearts can overshadow the bright lights of the season, and the season

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# Liturgy & Music

## Notes from the Choir Stalls

by Christina Jarvis,  
Director of Music



I'm reading a book called *Three Weeks with My Brother* by Nicholas Sparks and Micah Sparks, a memoir and travel book about their trip around the world. Nicholas becomes worried about the impact of three frivolous weeks away from work and family and gets so busy he doesn't even want to look at the information arriving in the mail. Micah, tired of being put off, finally says, "The anticipation is the essential part of this trip... Never forget that anticipation is an important part of life. Work's important, family's important, but without excitement, you have nothing."

And that sums up Advent. The joyful anticipation is as important as the end itself (well, okay, almost). Without festivals to brighten and mark the passing of our years, life is one long to-do list in which God is lucky to register as an entry on Sundays: Go to church. Anticipating Christmas means setting aside time to make it special, in prayer, in activities, in communion with like-minded fellow travelers on this spinning globe.

Grace St. Paul's does Advent well. The art team will dazzle us with their latest display, which I will love. I got in big trouble for suggesting that last year's Advent display reminded me of *My Little Pony*. It was the combination of the purple and bright pink, really, but I won't say anything like that again, I promise.

Musically, a lot is going on during this season, as you'd expect. For the first Sunday in Advent, the choir is working up a Bruckner anthem—*Virga Jesse floruit*—and Jane Click's instrumental ensemble is providing special music for communion. On the second Sunday, J. Philip Newell will be preaching as part of his Celtic Spirituality workshop. The choir will sing excerpts from an Irish mass in Gaelic, accompanied by *clàrsach* (Celtic harp) and flute. Of course, The Rev. Newell is Scottish and we'll be singing in Irish. Think he'll notice? Just a sidebar that the choir so far this year has sung in Spanish, various African languages, Latin, German, and

Ladino as well as English, and now they can add Irish Gaelic. Think about the new neural pathways they're laying down! Not that they're always happy about it, but still.

The third Sunday in Advent will be particularly special—some of the talented children in the parish will be singing and playing instruments for the 10 o'clock service, including Adie,

Benjamin and Jeremy Cannon (must be something in their breakfast cereal), Joaquin Fischer, and Merin Thomas. We are grateful for the assistance of Betsy Bright, Jeremy's trumpet teacher, who plays for us regularly at Easter. Jane

Click is preparing the children's choir to join with the adults in an Advent Celebration.

At this point, Christmas is almost upon us and it will be tempting to get really busy with preparations—shopping, baking, partying, sending jolly holiday messages on Facebook. Oh, you still do cards? How 20th century of you. (I do cards, too.) But there's another thing to look forward to—Christmas Eve services. This year, for the 10:30 p.m. Carol Service and 11 p.m. Festival Eucharist, we are having a brass quintet. Last year we were holding back because of the recession. This year, we're going to have a big, honking spectacle, whilst providing employment for six musicians (Barbara Else is playing flute for the 6 p.m. service, as well). Let it not be said that this is a jobless recovery. We will have English carols from the David Willcocks collection, and a grand baroque anthem by Sweelinck, and Pamela will play Bach for her organ solo. Merin Thomas will play *Silent Night* on violin. And then there's the reception and adult beverages. Let's celebrate our Savior's birth fully and completely (and legally).

So may you all have a blessed and anticipatory Advent and a wonderfully Merry Christmas, surrounded by loved ones and all the best of the season.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Never forget that anticipation is an important part of life... without excitement you have nothing.



## Liturgical Art Project for Advent

By Eleanor Kohloss

Each liturgical season's art projects have unfolded differently. Some volunteers have helped every time; others have joined in occasionally. What has been consistent is the congregation's enthusiastic reception of each project. This is my first Advent Liturgical Art participation.

When Nanalee and I talked about ideas—back during, yes, summer!—there were themes we wanted to evoke with the images. The images that eventually emerged on the painted banners are intended to evoke those key themes—jour-

ney, introspection, anticipation, and prophecy coming to pass—without using words.

Thank you to those who offered time, talent and ideas to the project: John Banks, Ann Bates, Noah Bates, Richard Bates, Lou Ann Beiging, Jane Click, Gretchen Collins, Pat Dickson, Karen English, the Rev. Deborah Heathcock, Laura Pascoe, Nanalee Raphael, Jean Smart, Priscilla Sprague, Halsy Taylor, Donna Tetreault, James White, Catherine Penn Williams, Steve Williams, and myself.

We also owe a big thanks to Kelly Paper for their donation of special paper for the new stars.

## M3M News

By Deborah Heathcock

For the past several months folks involved with our Mass for the Third Millennium have been thinking and brainstorming together to discern what we are called to be and do as we approach our second decade of the third millennium.

Who are we now? How can we faithfully witness to and serve God's continuing revelation to our world? As "Christ-followers" at Grace St. Paul's we can neither afford to forget our past, nor afford to lose sight of our future as it unfolds before us. How can we do both?

We at M3M are wrestling with these questions and trying on some new things. Beginning Jan. 9, M3M will take place on Saturdays at 5 p.m. And we will be publishing our "worship focus themes" in our Sunday bulletins and in subsequent *Briefly* newsletters, so stay tuned!

Meanwhile, join us for an M3M Solstice Celebration on Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. We'll be exploring the age-old convergence of Christianity with the natural celestial cycles observed by our ancestors for eons. Don't miss it!

And help us "think with our hearts" as we discover God's call to M3M for the second decade!

## Musica Sonora Concert

By Christina Jarvis

Musica Sonora, Southern Arizona's fully professional early music vocal ensemble, under the co-direction of Christina Jarvis and Jeffri Sanders, presents *An Old World Christmas*. Free yourselves from Frosty the Snowman and enjoy Christmas music from the 13th to the 17th centuries in the intimate space and radiant acoustics of sister congregation St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. From cloistered medieval cells to the Baroque glories of San Marco in Venice, our program rejoices in works by European masters from England, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy, including Bull, Gibbons, Purcell, Bouzignac, Victoria, Hassler, Praetorius, Palestrina,

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, and Monteverdi.

The singers of Musica Sonora are joined by an instrumental ensemble performing arrangements of English carols collected by Playford and other seasonal delights.

- Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.

Both concerts are at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 545 S. 5th Ave., in the Armory Park neighborhood.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors and for groups of 10 or more, and \$5 for students and are available at the door.

For further information, please contact 628-8119, or see the Musica Sonora website: [musicasonora.org](http://musicasonora.org).

# Children & Youth

## Saints visit 4th/5th Grade

By Steve Black  
& Kurt Fischer

Sunday school was just getting started in the 4th/5th grade room on All Saints Day (Nov. 1) when our class was visited by two saints.

First came St. Christopher, dressed in a robe and carrying an extremely stout staff. This saint, who happened to resemble GSP's Chris Eastoe, told the class how he spent his life looking for the most powerful master to serve. His search ended with Christ, who he served by helping travelers cross a deep stream.

Second came St. James. James told of his unexpected call by Jesus to leave his fishing nets and become a disciple. St. James, who resembled another GSP parishioner, James Callegary

(except with more hair), said that the difficult decision to follow Jesus was made easy by the overwhelming feeling of love coming from Jesus.

The kids in the class had many questions about the lives and the stories of these saints. These questions served as an introduction to our third special guest of the day, Lynda Canfield. Our class has spent the fall reading the book of Genesis, and had reached the part when God tells Abraham to sacrifice Issac. Lynda discussed possible meaning of this story, using some interpretations from the Jewish Torah.

It was a great class, and we thank all the guests, both past and present!

# Congregational Development

## Calling All Organizations: Annual Report Deadline!

The Annual Meeting of Grace St. Paul's is coming: Sunday, Jan. 24, after the 10 a.m. Eucharist. And that means it's time for the Annual Report!

We'd like to have reports from as many GSP organizations, covenant groups, and ministries as possible. Please send your reports in MS Word or

WordPerfect format. Photos of your group's activity, if applicable, would be wonderful! Either prints or digital photos are fine; if you send digital photos, please use the highest resolution your camera provides, without editing or resizing, in TIFF or JPEG format. Thank you!

Please e-mail your reports to David Wachter, [annualreport@grace-stpauls.org](mailto:annualreport@grace-stpauls.org), by Thursday, Jan. 7.

## What's Happening

### Continued from Page 12

**17th** 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Child Care  
9 a.m., Meet the Vestry Candidates  
10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)  
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp  
**18th** **MLK Holiday** – Office & Joseph's Pantry Closed  
10 a.m., EfM6  
1 p.m., Bible Workbench  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**20th** 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)  
**21st** 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**23rd** 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium  
**24th** **Food Ministries Sunday & GSP Annual Meeting**  
8 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)  
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m., GSP Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp  
**25th** 1 p.m., Bible Workbench  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**26th** 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 10 Group  
**27th** 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)  
**28th** 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**30th** 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium  
**31st** 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)  
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp

### Looking ahead to early February...

**1st** 10 a.m., EfM6  
1 p.m., Bible Workbench  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**3rd** 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)

**4th** 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**6th** 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium  
**7th** 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)  
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp  
**8th** 1 p.m., Bible Workbench  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**10th** 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM)  
7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)  
**11th** 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic  
**13th** 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium  
**14th** 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m., Child Care  
10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade)  
10 a.m., Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour  
11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp  
10 a.m., EfM6  
**15th** 1 p.m., Bible Workbench  
7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic

# Social Justice & Outreach



Casa Chef and Friends (above) and Nogales Colonia (right).



## Remember When...?

By Paul Gobdes

### Pet Food Drive By Holly Shinn

When tough economic times hit, often it is the animals that are the first to suffer. They go hungry as struggling families do not have money to buy pet food. They sometimes end up homeless; the Humane Society and other shelters have seen an increase in people wanting to give up animals because owners can no longer afford to feed them. YOU CAN HELP!

Grace St. Paul's will be collecting dog and cat food on Dec. 13 & 20. The food will be distributed through Joseph's Pantry.

E-mail Holly Shinn at hollys6@juno.com if you have any questions. We can make a difference in the lives of our furry friends!

In February 2009, Grace St. Paul's parish generously donated a pickup truck-load of food for Casa Misericordia, located in Nogales, Sonora. A multi-function center, Casa Misericordia provides hot noon meals for hundreds of kids, some of whose parents work in the border maquiladoras for about \$50 per week. (Maquiladoras are foreign-owned plants which are sent the individual parts of cameras, locks, appliances manufactured in the U.S. and other countries. These parts are assembled in the maquiladoras and sent back.)

Other families are absolutely destitute, with neither running water and indoor plumbing, nor electricity.

The Center provides learning opportunities for all ages in classes on language and computers, and holds an after-school program so that kids don't have to be home alone while parents work.

Casa Misericordia has worked to identify and provide services for special needs kids, and support and education for their parents. It promotes a community garden with the goal that families will start their own plots. It supports a women's cooperative dedicated to empowering them to become self-sufficient. The mission of Casa is accomplished almost completely with volunteers coming out of Nogales, with Borderlinks providing support.

There is nothing that beats first-hand experience. Stretch your comfort zone and join us for a visit to the Casa on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The cost is a suggested \$20 donation. Transportation to and from Tucson is included, and we'll eat with the kids. Passport required.

Contact Nancy Meister for more details at nmeister@umcaz.edu or to sign up for the trip.

### Report from Joseph's Pantry

By Steve Williams

There has been a lot of generosity to the Joseph's Pantry Food Ministry this fall. We are grateful, especially, for the additional volunteers who have come forth: Don Christiansen, Terry Shreve, Sam Guard, David Penn and Dan Burtonak. Returning volunteers include Gretchen Collins, Clif Click and Priscilla Walker. Our calendar is now full!

We also continue to receive great support

in the form of food offerings from food drives held at Resurrection Lutheran and All Souls' Lutheran churches. Shower services have been reopened on Mondays and Thursdays 9-11 a.m. and that has been going well.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as co-coordinator with Roger Swett over the past two years. Please give a warm welcome to Joan Cooney and Holly Shinn as they take over as co-coordinators in January.

# Adult Spiritual Formation

Listed are the some of our spiritual formation classes available for you during the Advent season, Christmas, and the beginning of the New Year. We hope you will come, participate, and experience these wonderful opportunities to share your hope and spiritual growth for the year to come. These spiritual formation activities will provide "food for your journey."

## Finding the Heart of Christmas through the Arts

**Sunday, Dec. 20, 9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Ed. Center**

An experiential class to enhance your spiritual thoughts and feelings on Christmas at this time of Incarnation. Watch for exciting and interesting details in Grace St. Paul's Sunday Bulletin.

## Closing the Year and Expectations of the New Year—A Spiritual Experience!

**Sunday, Dec. 27, 9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Ed. Center**

Wow! What a year this has been—individually, as a spiritual community, as a nation. Where has God been present in all of this? Discuss and share your thoughts, feelings, solutions, and experiences that represent spiritual growth this past calendar year. Watch for more details in Grace St. Paul's Bulletin.

Coordinated by Grace St. Paul's EFM class mentors.

## Priest & Scientist—One Man's Struggle to Reconcile Faith with Scientific Knowledge

**Sundays, Jan. 3 & 10**

**9-9:45 a.m., Bloom Education Center**

Based on the book *The Jesuit and the Skull* by Amir D. Aczel, this class will discuss our own responses to the life choices made by Jesuit Priest Teilhard de Chardin when confronted with three issues. The first issue was how to reconcile his church's teachings with his scientific discoveries.

Second, de Chardin examines the demands of obedience imposed by his Jesuit vows, and how they conflict with his desire to share his scientific discoveries, and the theology he developed in response to his discoveries. Third, de Chardin examines the demands of obedience to his vows of celibacy and his relationship with a woman who was very important to him. Although not required, a copy of *The Jesuit and the Skull* is available through the Rector's Bookshelf in McBride Hall.

Presented by Peggy Scott, a former EfM mentor who enjoys discussing questions of faith and God with other people.

## Meet the Vestry Nominees

**Sunday, Jan. 17, 9-9:45 a.m., McBride Hall**

Meet your vestry and Junior Warden candidates for the 2010-2013 terms. There will be a question and answer format, so bring your questions for the slate of nominees! You will have the opportunity to select new vestry members at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 24.

## Annual Parish Meeting

**Sunday, Jan. 24**

**11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., McBride Hall**

Come, vote for Junior Warden, vestry members and your Diocesan Convention delegates. The agenda also includes the budget for 2010, updates on parish ministries, our transition process, and a report from the Search Committee for a rector. Lunch will be provided.

## Anamcara Circle begins January 9

Anamcara is a Gaelic word that means soul friend. The Anamcara Circle is a group of soul friends who are of support to each other on their spiritual journey. This circle of soul friends includes people who:

- are interested in learning from the Celtic tradition and its application to today's world;
- want to deepen their awareness of God and develop their mystical consciousness;
- want to receive support from others on their spiritual journey; or
- want to share prayer and meditation

time together, learn from each other, and develop rituals that will celebrate the seasonal cycle of life.

The group's facilitator will be **Sister Jane Comerford**. Jane has studied the Celtic spiritual tradition for over 16 years and led pilgrimages to Ireland for the last 10 years. She draws from writings in the Celtic tradition and other spiritual writings that can help us understand how to be Spirit in the world today. The group's focus will be on applying Celtic spiritual principles to our lives in today's world. Jane is currently on staff as a spiritual director and retreat facilitator at the Desert House of Prayer in Tucson.

The Anamcara Circle will meet six

Saturday mornings from January-June (Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 20, April 10, May 15 and June 5) from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Bloom Education Center. The Anamcara Circle will be a covenanted group, that is, members are asked to commit to attend all meetings and membership will close after the first meeting. Group size will be limited to 20; pre-registration is required. Fee for the group will be \$90 for six sessions, payable at the first session or by arrangement with the facilitator. Checks should be made out to "Jane Comerford."

To register, please call the church office at 327-6857 or contact Jane at [jcomerford@earthlink.net](mailto:jcomerford@earthlink.net) if you need further information. Registration deadline is Jan. 2.

## **Transition Update: From Your Interim Rector** *By Deborah Heathcock*

As I conclude my third month with you here at GSP (has it really been that long?), I continue to be touched by your welcome and by many wishes that I could stay and become your rector. And so it does seem that this may be a good time to talk a bit about the nature of interim ministry.

These days our transition periods for parishes average about two years, so by the time the end is finally in sight we're often ready to give in to despair. It's not at all unusual to get tired of living in this liminal place, and to want more than anything to just get on with it!

But the end will come, and there will be a brand new rector to travel with you for the foreseeable future! Said simply, that cannot be

me. You see, the very nature of interim ministry is that it's temporary. As an interim rector I come to a new place and sometimes fall in love with a parish, knowing that the relationship can only be bittersweet. Our end together is present even as we begin our journey.

But our end won't be for a while yet. There's a lot more fun ahead, and a lot more work to do together! There's a lot more "thinking-with-your-heart" to be done, and much more discovering how to live out God's unique call to us as the Body of Christ here at Grace St. Paul's in this twenty-first century. As for me, I'm cherishing our time together and can't wait to see where our journey takes us!

## **Consecration Sunday Report** *by Catherine Penn Williams*

On Consecration Sunday, Nov. 1, members of Grace St. Paul's stepped up to the altar with cards pledging our giving for 2010. Richard Kuns, the Senior Warden at St. Philip's in the Hills, urged us in his homily to view giving as part of our spiritual relationship with God and our community of faith. He invited us to carefully examine our hearts about what we are called to give for the coming year.

As of Nov. 16, initial results are as follows:

- 127 pledges have been received for a total of \$296,137—an excellent beginning!
- Of those, 44 households increased their pledges over 2009 amounts.
- This compares to 129 pledges and \$268,000

on Consecration Sunday in 2008; however, final pledges for 2009 numbered 197 for a total of \$412,000.

- Our stewardship response for 2010 will be critical in being able to hire a new rector and meeting the requirements of our very basic operating budget.

There is still time to make your commitment to the future of Grace St. Paul's. Estimate of Giving cards have been mailed to those were not able to be there on Consecration Sunday. Cards may also be picked up from an usher or at the Welcome Table on Sunday morning.

We're off to a good start but we have a ways to go! It's not too late to take part!

## **Parish Wellness Report from Nov. 15** *by Catherine Penn Williams*

Members of the congregation attended the final Parish Wellness Update of 2009 on Sunday, Nov. 15, at 11:30 a.m. in McBride Hall. Overall, the message to the parish is that GSP is on the right path. Highlights of the meeting include:

### **Financial Health**

- Pledges for 2009 are coming in slowly or not being paid in full, in large part due to parishioners being impacted by loss of jobs, increasing expenses and lower incomes. Understandably, these conditions also stress GSP's ability to maintain a balanced budget.

- Income has also been impacted by fewer rentals to outside groups and weddings.

- Fortunately, expenses for salaries/benefits are also down due to fluctuations in staffing this year.

- However, maintenance expenses for the church are over budget by nearly 60% due to the need to replace the air conditioning compressor in the Undercroft (not part of the new HVAC system!), rewiring electrical conduit to the Undercroft, changing the church locks, and other items that have needed repair to our 50-plus-year-old building.

- As of Nov. 7, we have \$203,000 in the Emergency Reserve Fund (savings account) due to the bequest from the Witkay family. The Endowment Fund (monies invested with the income restricted for specified uses) is currently at \$471,000.

### **Ministries**

- Elizabeth Campbell has assumed responsi-

*Continued on Page 11*

# Parish Life



## A New Face in the Office!

As most of you know, we've had to say "good-bye" much too soon to our wonderful parish administrator, Anne Parker, who left us recently to accept her "dream job" of developing a new wellness center in the area. (More on that TBA!)

But today I'm delighted to announce that we've been blessed with a new parish administrator, Ms. Kim McClain! Some of you may remember Kim from her visits to GSP when Fr. Harold was here. They were long-time friends from their days at St. Anthony's on the Desert Episcopal Church in Scottsdale, where Kim served as a minister for Evangelism and Discipleship.

She also brings to us extensive experience in business, non-profit management, and information systems technology.

Kim is a member of St. Phillip's in the Hills Episcopal Church and she's a long-time supporter of such efforts as Orphan Care, the Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Join me in welcoming Kim to our GSP staff!

## Confirmation Classes 2010

By Deborah Heathcock

Looking ahead, we will be offering Confirmation classes aimed especially at youth and young adults beginning Jan. 10, at 11:30 a.m.

There will be a diocesan-wide Confirmation service at the cathedral on May 1, as well as Bishop Smith's annual visitation to Grace St. Paul's, likely sometime in the summer or early fall. So there will be two opportunities for those interested to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church this year.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, contact the church office to sign up.

## Parish website's resurrection imminent

By John Banks

After being hacked by malicious "bots" taking advantage of the content management software used to run it, the GSP parish website will be back online by the end of November.

Popular blogging software WordPress, which was used to construct the previous incarnation of the parish website, is also a popular target for hackers. These hackers employ automated routines to scour the Internet for sites using WordPress and exploit any discoverable security holes for nefarious purposes. These include redirecting visitors for advertising revenue or with the hopes of infecting computers with viruses or other malware.

Bringing the parish site to life again involved starting from scratch with different, and more secure, software, in order to erase all possible traces of the bugs which had infested the account previously. Thank you for your patience during our website renovation!

*By the grace of God,  
the Right Reverend Kirk Smith,  
Bishop of Arizona,  
will ordain  
Nancy Meister  
to the Order of Deacons  
on  
Saturday, January 23, 2010,  
at Trinity Cathedral  
in Phoenix, Arizona.  
More information will be forthcoming  
and carpools from GSP will be arranged!*

## Call for Lenten Meditations

As I write this, the Thanksgiving turkey is still in the freezer, and Christmas is over a month away. So it's hard to shift gears and think about Lent. But we must, because Ash Wednesday comes early next year—Feb. 17—and it's time to plan for the 2010 Lenten meditations booklet. We don't have a set theme for the booklet, but I'm sure that 40 people from our wonderful, creative congregation can write meaningful meditations.

If you'd like to share your thoughts with the rest of us, we invite you to submit your meditation (not to exceed 200 words, please). It may be original or it may be a favorite poem or selection from another source. If your submission is not original, be sure to include the author and title of poem, book, or other publication.

Please send your meditation as an e-mail attachment (or include it in the body of your e-mail) in either WordPerfect or MS Word format to the Rev. Nadine Martin at [nadinemartin@q.com](mailto:nadinemartin@q.com) no later than noon on Tuesday, Jan. 12. Yes, I know that's right after Christmas and you're still trying to catch up, but an early deadline is necessary to avoid gridlock in the production process and mail it to you by Feb. 14.

If you have questions, please contact the Rev. Martin either by e-mail or by phone (733-5640).

## Celebrate the Holidays at GSP!

### *Continued from Page 3*

is one to endure rather than enjoy. The reasons for the holiday “blues” vary from loss, illness, or loneliness, to the feeling that the true meaning of Christmas—which is to celebrate the birth of the Christ child—has been overlooked among the trappings of commercialism. The Blue Christmas service is designed to help us acknowledge our sadness at Christmas, offer those feelings to God in a safe environment, and celebrate the birth of Jesus. People are invited to participate at whatever level is comfortable for them. The service includes music and laying on of hands and anointing, and concludes with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

### **Singing for Peace: An Evening of Chants and Meditation**

**Thursday, Dec. 31**

**7-8:30 p.m. in the Chancel**

Celebrate the close of the old year with hope for the new. Join us for an evening of meditation and singing for peace—in our hearts, our communities, and our world. We will use our voices, singing simple, easy-to-learn chants to express our desire for the peace that passes all understanding, and for a world in which all beings may be happy and free from suffering.

Led by the composer, Kristopher Lindquist, who is a composer, musician, philosopher, and seeker, these chants have been described as “contemporary, inclusive, and ecumenical.” The chants he has written represent steps on his own journey to create a bridge between our ancient heritage and new expressions for living today.

contact Ann Bates if you have ideas or would like to help.

### **Vestry Nominations**

- The nominating committee is seeking persons to fill a vestry slate for four 3-year terms, one 1-year unfulfilled term, and the Junior Warden.

- The slate will be announced in the bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 13. Additional nominations may be made to Tom Pitello, chair, or the interim rector until Sunday, Jan. 3. Nominations will close at that time.

- The vestry slate will participate in a discussion forum at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 17. Voting members of the parish will be asked to accept the slate at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 11:30 a.m.

### **Search Committee**

- A preview of the parish profile was shown; it will be sent to the Bishop for approval at the end of November.

- The search timeline was reviewed; the committee hopes to begin reviewing applications and interviewing candidates in January-March.

### **Parish Wellness Report**

*Continued from Page 9*

bility for coordinating the OWel (Office Welcome) Team of office volunteers.

- Marilyn Abraham is the new coordinator for the ushers at the 10 a.m. service.

- Steve Williams and Roger Swett are retiring as coordinators of Joseph’s Pantry. Joan Cooney and Holly Shinn will become the new coordinators in January.

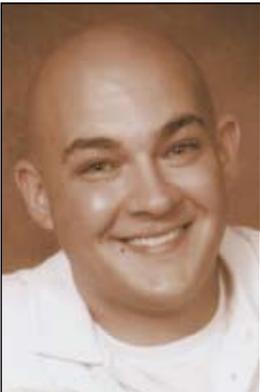
- Paul Gohdes is retiring as convener of the Social Justice & Outreach Covenant Group as of Dec. 31. [At press time, Rich Bates and Steve Williams have agreed to co-chair this vital group of ministries.]

- As of Oct. 31, the food ministries are well in the black financially!

### **HVAC II Campaign**

- We have received 52 pledges/gifts for a total of \$44,000 towards the estimated \$90,000 needed to pay off the HVAC loan. Thank you for your generosity and support!

- Fundraising efforts will continue throughout 2010 in the form of several events. Please



Eric Osche, grandson of Doree Ramey, was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his “outstanding performance” of “lasting impact” to the U.S. Navy.

Eric was among the first to join the military after the 9/11 attacks eight years ago.

The Ramey and Osche families wish to express their gratitude and thanks to members of Grace St. Paul for the prayers for safety and well being for Eric and others currently serving in the Armed Forces.

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<b>What's Happening in December</b>		
<b>4th</b>	7 p.m., <i>Celtic Christian Spirituality</i> with Philip Newell	8 a.m., Holy Eucharist
<b>5th</b>	9 a.m., <i>Celtic Christian Spirituality</i> with Philip Newell	9 a.m., Child Care
<b>6th</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist with Philip Newell 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., Christ Our Memory with Philip Newell 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist with Philip Newell 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp	9 a.m., Finding the Heart of Christmas through the Arts 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
<b>7th</b>	1 p.m., Bible Workbench 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	<b>21st</b> 1 p.m., Bible Workbench 7 p.m., M3M Solstice Celebration 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
<b>8th</b>	6:30 p.m., EfM Year 10 Group	<b>22nd</b> 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 10 Group
<b>9th</b>	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)	<b>23rd</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)
<b>10th</b>	3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 5:30 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium	<b>24th</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Pageant Eucharist 7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Reception 10:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Music 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Eucharist
<b>13th</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., GSP Alternative Christmas 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist with Philip Newell 11:15 a.m., a.m., GSP Alternative Christmas during Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp 7 p.m., <b>Blue Christmas Service</b>	<b>25th</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> —Office & Joseph's Pantry Closed 12:30 a.m., Reception for Christmas Eve Eucharist 10 a.m., Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols
<b>14th</b>	1 p.m., Bible Workbench 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic	<b>26th</b> Office & Joseph's Pantry Closed
<b>16th</b>	7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)	<b>27th</b> <b>Food Ministries Sunday</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., Closing the Year & Expectations of the New Year 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp
<b>17th</b>	3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 5:30 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium (3rd Thursday potluck at 6:30 pm)	<b>28th</b> <b>Christmas Holiday</b> —Office & St. Joseph's Pantry Closed 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic
<b>20th</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>30th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site)
		<b>31st</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic 5:30 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium 7 p.m., Singing for Peace: An Evening of Chant and Meditation
		<b>...in January</b> <b>1st</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> —Office & Joseph's Pantry Closed <b>3rd</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., Priest & Scientist 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool – 5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp <b>4th</b> 10 a.m., EfM6 1 p.m., Bible Workbench 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic <b>6th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site) <b>7th</b> Deadline for submissions for Annual Report 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic <b>9th</b> 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium <b>10th</b> 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Child Care 9 a.m., <i>Priest &amp; Scientist</i> 10 a.m., Sunday School (Preschool-5th grade) 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m., Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m., eYouth13@gsp <b>11th</b> 10 a.m., EfM6 1 p.m., Bible Workbench 7:30 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic <b>12th</b> 6:30 p.m., EfM Year 10 Group <b>13th</b> 7 a.m., Holy Eucharist 9 a.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 6:30 p.m., Education for Ministry (EfM) 7 p.m., Bible Workbench (off-site) <b>14th</b> 3 p.m., Healing Touch Clinic <b>16th</b> 5 p.m., Mass for the Third Millennium

*Continued on Page 6*